■ Entertainment / A26
A spark of hope for Pinoy bands

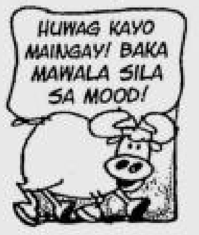
■ Business / B1
RP expected to benefit from Japan-China row

■ World / A10
Kuwait names first woman Cabinet minister

■ Sports / A25
Ginobili stars as Spurs take 2-0 advantage

■ Lifestyle / C1
Israeli martial art Krav Maga to the rescue

'Do not disturb' sign up: Dolphins mating


HUWAG KAYO MAINGAY! BAKA MAWALA SILA SA MOOD!

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

BAIS CITY—Ssshh! Marine mammals breeding.

Instead of clapping and shouting at the sight of dolphins and whales, tourists visiting the Tañon

DO NOT/ A8

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Tuesday, June 14, 2005 ★★ 46 pages / 4 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 186 P18

Mikey goes on leave from House; Iggy bides time

REP. Juan Miguel Arroyo: "Falsely and unfairly accused."
REM ZAMOR

By Michael Lim Ubac,
Nikko Dizon
and Christine O. Avendaño

REP. JUAN Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, the elder son of President Macapagal-Arroyo, yesterday took a leave of absence for an indefinite period amid the raging "jueteng" scandal which, he said, threatened "to bring down" the administration.

"After personal deliberation on the preceding weeks of unmitigated attacks on my person, I have decided to go on a leave of absence as a member of the House of Representatives until my name is cleared of any taint in the 'jueteng' issue," Arroyo said.

The 36-year-old representative of the second district of Pampanga vowed to keep himself out of public sight even as he claimed to have been "falsely and unfairly" accused by jueteng operators and bagmen who said he received payola from gambling lords in Luzon.

"In this light, I will step back and personally refrain from issuing any comments and statements on the issues involved, so that I will not be perceived as seeking to influence the proceedings," Arroyo said in a statement.

Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo yesterday said he would consult with his constituents before deciding whether to take a leave of absence from the House, just like his nephew. He stressed that resignation was not an option.

"I have to consult with my constituents first

MIKEY/ A6

GMA dared: Break your silence on tapes

Is it your voice? Yes or no, opposition asks

By Juliet Labog-Javellana
and Philip Tubeza

CALLS have mounted for President Macapagal-Arroyo to publicly declare if it is indeed her voice that is on a supposed tape about alleged fraud in the May 2004 elections, or the issue will remain a ticking bomb for her.

Allies and critics yesterday said Ms Arroyo may have weathered a potentially dangerous Independence Day weekend, but they warned that the crisis confronting her administration was far from over.

"It's still chaotic," Liberal Party Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said, referring to the political mess created by twin allegations that the President had attempted to rig the results of the polls during a supposed phone conversation with Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, and that her close relatives had taken jueteng bribes.

House Minority Leader Francisco Escudero openly challenged Ms Arroyo.

"I am asking this question directly or point blank: Are you the voice on the tape? Is it your voice? Answer it yes or no," Escudero said.

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson similarly dared the President. "My advice to her is simple: Just tell the people if she is not the one [talking to Garcillano]."

Escudero said Ms Arroyo's prolonged silence on the issue of the alleged tape was fueling the crisis.

He urged the President and Garcillano to provide samples of their voice prints for analysis.

"They may think they have disarmed the bomb but there were many fuses. Many things remain unexplained," said Lacson, one of five presidential candidates who lost to Ms Arroyo in last year's polls.

The President has not made any categorical statement about the controversial audio tape since Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, in a statement from which he later backtracked, officially broke the news of its existence nine days ago.

Escudero said the administration and the opposition could agree on a foreign government agency that would authenticate the tape to settle the issue once

GMA DARED/ A20

AN ABS-CBN film grab shows military intelligence agent TSgt. Vidal Doble reunited with his son.

Spy denies being tape source

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan
and Alcuin Papa

AN ARMY intelligence sergeant stepped out of the shadows of San Carlos Seminary yesterday and disputed claims by whistleblower Samuel Ong that he was the source of the controversial tape containing an alleged wiretapped conversation of President Macapagal-Arroyo purporting to show she had fixed last year's elections.

Accompanied by a bishop, TSgt. Vidal Doble of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), was brought to military headquarters at Camp Aguinaldo, where he had a reunion with his wife Arlene and their two children, a boy of about 14 and a girl aged 10.

In a television interview on ANC late last night, Doble said he did not know the contents of the

SPY/ A6

Ong slips out of seminary

By Luige A. del Puerto,
TJ Burgonio
and Tarra W. Quismundo

THE FORMER deputy director of the National Bureau of Investigation slipped out of his Church sanctuary late last night accompanied by bishops in a van with tinted windows, ending a three-day standoff that began after he claimed he had evidence purporting to show President Macapagal-Arroyo had cheated in last year's elections.

Under cover of darkness, the convoy of vehicles spirited

ONG/ A8

Taped voices authentic, says Tatad

By Leila B. Salaverria
and Tina G. Santos

THE VOICE has a "strong similarity" to that of President Macapagal-Arroyo, suggesting it is she who is talking on the bugged phone.

And there are also similarities in the voice of the man on the other end of the line with the voice of Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

Former Sen. Francisco Tatad said yesterday these were the findings of a US company specializing in voice analysis which, he said, had examined a controversial audio tape supposedly indicating that Ms Arroyo tried to rig the results of the May 2004 elections.

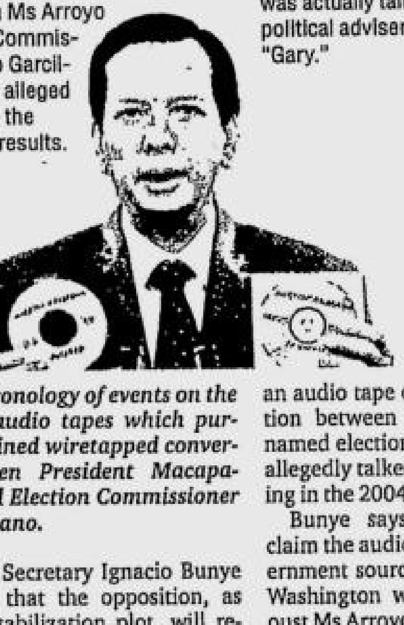
Tatad interpreted the findings of the New Jersey-based Voice Identification Inc. (VII) as having

TAPED/ A20

TALE OF THE TAPES

June 6 - To preempt an alleged opposition plot, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye plays to reporters two CD copies of supposed taped conversations between Ms Arroyo and Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano about an alleged attempt to rig the May election results.

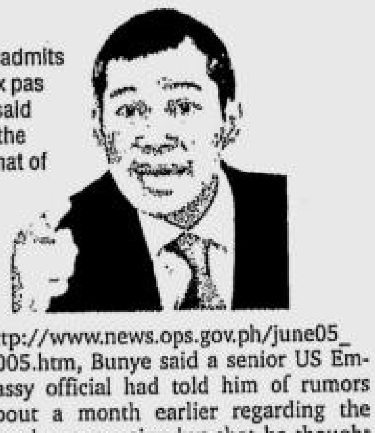
Bunye says the tape had been doctored. He says the other tape showed that Ms Arroyo was actually talking to a political adviser named "Gary."



PRESS Secretary Ignacio Bunye

June 7 - Opposition lawyer Alan Paguia releases his own two tapes of supposed incriminating conversations involving Ms Arroyo, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, Garcillano and former Sen. Robert Barbers. Garcillano denies his is the other voice on the tape.

June 9 - Bunye admits committing a faux pas when he initially said that the voice on the recordings was that of the President.

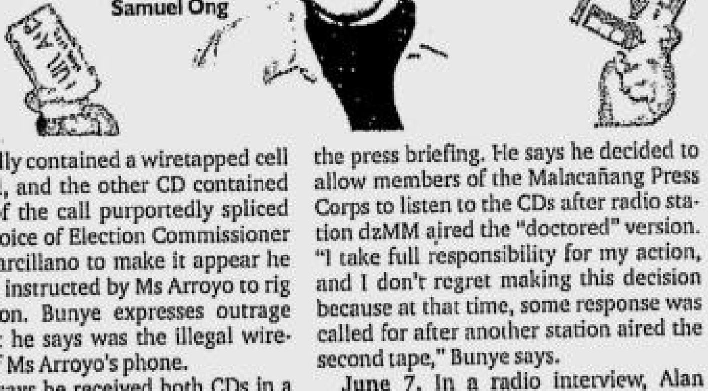


ESTRADA lawyer Alan Paguia

June 10 - Former NBI Deputy Director Samuel Ong presents what he claimed was the "mother of all tapes" that allegedly showed how the President fixed last year's elections. He says there are three other "equally explosive" tapes and calls on Ms Arroyo to resign.
Ong seeks refuge at the San Carlos Seminary in Makati.

June 13 - Bunye says it is up to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez to file the necessary charges against Ong for violation of the Anti-Wiretapping law.

PDI RESEARCH



EX-NBI Deputy Director Samuel Ong

HERE is the chronology of events on the controversial audio tapes which purportedly contained wiretapped conversations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

JUNE 5. Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye tells reporters that the opposition, as part of its destabilization plot, will release either that day or the following day an audio tape of a wiretapped conversation between Ms Arroyo and an unnamed election official in which the two allegedly talked about rigging the counting in the 2004 presidential election.

Bunye says the opposition would claim the audio tapes came from US government sources to make it appear that Washington was involved in a plot to oust Ms Arroyo.

In his View from the Palace page in http://www.news.ops.gov.ph/june05_2005.htm, Bunye said a senior US Embassy official had told him of rumors about a month earlier regarding the taped conversation but that he thought these had died down.

"Obviously, this news story about election fraud is a pure concoction," Bunye says.

June 6. Bunye plays to Palace reporters two CDs. According to him, one CD allegedly contained a wiretapped cell phone call, and the other CD contained snippets of the call purportedly spliced with the voice of Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to make it appear he was being instructed by Ms Arroyo to rig the election. Bunye expresses outrage over what he says was the illegal wiretapping of Ms Arroyo's phone.

Bunye says he received both CDs in a sealed brown envelope shortly before the press briefing. He says he decided to allow members of the Malacañang Press Corps to listen to the CDs after radio station dzMM aired the "doctored" version. "I take full responsibility for my action, and I don't regret making this decision because at that time, some response was called for after another station aired the second tape," Bunye says.

June 7. In a radio interview, Alan

TALE/ A20

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will have cloudy skies with rainshowers and thunderstorms, while Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/06/14/05 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Garcillano appointment hangs

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.
and Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is undecided about re-appointing Virgilio Garcillano to the Commission on Elections. Garcillano has denied being the "Gary" in the controversial wiretapped phone conversation allegedly with the President that surfaced last week.

"I have not received guidance (on Garcillano's) reappointment," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in an interview yesterday over radio station dzMM.

Bunye said Garcillano's reappointment was solely the prerogative of the President. "I will announce her decision once she makes up her mind on this," he said.

Congress has adjourned without acting on Garcillano's appointment, which would have given him a fixed term in office.

His reappointment has become a question mark after he was tagged as the "Gary" in the wiretapped conversation where he and the President allegedly discussed the conduct and results of last year's elections.

The President's bypassed nominees are assumed re-appointed unless there is a big issue or controversy blocking their appointment.

GARCILLANO

Garcillano and Manuel Barcelona were appointed to the Comelec by President Arroyo on Feb. 10, 2005, as replacements for Commissioners Luzviminda Tancangco and Ralph Lantion, both appointees of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel had said the wiretapped conversation confirmed earlier speculation that Garcillano was nominated to the election body "to carry out special operations for the President."

Garcillano was the Comelec director for Region 10 in 1995 when Pimentel lost in his bid for the Senate due to, the latter claimed, "dagdag-bawas" (vote-padding and shaving).

For his part, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said, "It's worth watching (if Garcillano will be re-appointed)."

Lacson said Garcillano was now "out of the Comelec" because he was bypassed by the Commission on Appointments, the powerful body composed of senators and congressmen.

Lacson, a CA member, said Garcillano was not like a Cabinet member who was deemed "acting or vested with ad interim appointment" when not confirmed by the CA before the adjournment of Congress.

"He has to be re-appointed, otherwise, he is practically out of the Comelec," Lacson said.

Lacson said it would be interesting to find out what the President would do in the case of Garcillano.

Lacson said if Ms Arroyo reappoints Garcillano, it would mean that she was afraid of him. If she does not reappoint him, it would still be bad because that would indicate she was "guilty," he said.

Sen. Richard Gordon agreed that Garcillano presented a problem to the President.

"I don't think he would be reappointed. If I were Garcillano, I would no longer seek reappointment because he is such a controversial figure," Gordon said.

Gordon said not seeking reappointment should not mean that Garcillano was admitting guilt.

Asked what Garcillano could do, Gordon said: "He might consider (a job) at PLDT [the phone company]."

Lacson claimed Garcillano was in hiding in a resort in a Southern Tagalog province. He did not elaborate.

Militants looking for Loren

By Blanche S. Rivera

WHERE is Loren?

Militants yesterday called on former senator and losing vice presidential candidate Loren Legarda to surface and join the fight against the government amid allegations that President Macapagal-Arroyo had cheated in last year's elections.

The fisherfolk group Pamalakaya said Legarda was a "legitimate political stakeholder" in the antigovernment protests facing the national leadership because of her pending electoral protest in the Presidential Electoral Tribunal against Vice President Noli de Castro.

"We will patiently wait for Ms Legarda but we urge her to immediately break her silence and pursue the fight in the name of truth, justice and good governance," Pamalakaya chair Fernando Hicap said in a statement.

"We hope the good senator will rise above the occasion and take the extra mile in… her fight to uphold the real verdict of the people in the May 2004 national elections," Hicap said.

The militants said they would try to invite Legarda to be part of their protest actions because her presence was "necessary" to boost the opposition cause against Arroyo and De Castro.

Hicap said De Castro was only supporting the President because he was aware that the people did not look to him as a worthy successor.

"He is sour-graping because nobody wants him to succeed illegitimate President Arroyo in case the bogus president is ousted from power," he said.

Militant groups insist that a council or transition government composed of "respectable members of the opposition, representatives of cause-oriented groups and patriotic forces" should take over if the President is ousted.

"The practice of constitutional succession is already a thing of the past and it will not work this time because the people deserve a better alternative rather than a simple change of the guard through constitutional succession," Pamalakaya said.

CAPTAINS Rembert Baylosis, Peter Navarro and Philip Esmeralda (from left) salute after being handed light sentences for violating Article of War 97. AP

Officers who revealed spy plan sentenced

By Dona Pazzibugan

THREE Army captains who had accused Malacañang of ordering them to spy on President Macapagal-Arroyo's rivals in the May 2004 elections were handed light sentences by a court-martial yesterday.

Capt. Peter Navarro, leader of the group Kawal Pilipino, and fellow Captains Philip Esmeralda and Rembert Baylosis entered into a plea bargain with military prosecutors on Friday.

Under the agreement, the charge of violating Article of War 96, or conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, was dropped.

But the three pleaded guilty to violating Article of War 97, for conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline.

The court-martial presided over by Col. Virgilio Espeneli yesterday handed down its sentence: Forfeiture of two-thirds of their basic pay for the next six months and a delay in their promotion by a year.

They have been detained and placed in solitary confinement at Fort Bonifacio, the past year and four months.

A group of masked soldiers held a clandestine press conference on Jan. 28, 2004, and claimed that Malacañang had ordered the military to spy on the other presidential candidates.

In their manifesto, they also called for the resignation of then Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita and condemned politicking in the military.

Two of those at the press conference, Captains Marcos Serafica and Yusuf Hassan, were cleared after they agreed to testify against the others.

Baltazar Azadon, a civilian who was at the press conference, was not charged before the military court.

Pastor "Boy" Saycon, a staunch critic of the President, was also implicated in Kawal Pilipino's activities but he was not charged.

"The group wittingly allowed themselves to be used by some misguided elements in furthering their ulterior motives," an Army statement said.

"Having admitted and realized their wrongdoings, the general court-martial imposed penalties commensurate to the offense committed," it added.

Thanks, actor tells Bunye

CHARACTER actor Rez Cortez yesterday was profuse in his thanks to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye for naming him as a possible replacement for President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In an interview over dzMM radio, Cortez, one of the most ardent boosters of the late Fernando Poe Jr. from show business, said it was an "honor" to be included in the list of persons Bunye said were possible successors to the President should she be eased from power.

Cortez even urged the presidential spokesperson to "jump ship" and join the opposition.

"It must be hard peddling all those lies of the administration. You might find life easier with us because we only deal with the truth," Cortez said.

He said Bunye was caught in a lie last week when he held up two compact discs purportedly containing phone conversations between the President and Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano discussing plans to rig last year's elections.

Bunye at first said it was the President on the tape, only to retract his statement a few days later after receiving flak from both the opposition and administration camps.

The militant group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) yesterday scored Bunye for making "condescending" remarks when he commented on the lack of alternatives to President Arroyo, Cortez among them.

Bayan said Ms Arroyo herself was not fit for the job.

"Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo wasn't exactly the first and best choice in the people's minds to replace [Joseph] Estrada after Edsa 2. She got to be president because she was the so-called constitutional successor, an accidental beneficiary. But that didn't make her the most deserving choice at the time," said Bayan secretary general Renato M. Reyes Jr.

Bunye had belittled the opposition's lack of a viable alternative to the President and its lack of development programs.

"They should tell the public who they want to put in power. Will it be (retired Gen. Fortunato) Abat? Will it be former President (Joseph) Estrada? Will it be from the left or from the group of Ka Roger (communist spokesperson Rogelio Rosal)? Will it be Rez Cortez?" Bunye had said over dwIZ radio.

Reyes said Bunye's remark was condescending and too sweeping because it reduced the anti-Arroyo protests to mere attempts at a power-grab by narrow political interests.

"Maybe that's their thinking when Edsa 2 was unfolding, but they shouldn't assume we think the same way they do," he said.

Bayan said the decision of who should replace Ms Arroyo should be left to the people. It suggested that a transitional coalition government with members coming from a "broad united front" should lead the country while waiting for new presidential elections. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

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Vicarious traumatization of journalists

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

(First of two parts)

AFTER surviving a Huey helicopter crash a few years ago while on coverage, GMA-7 TV reporter Jiggy Manicad felt fortunate that he emerged physically whole, along with the rest of the passengers and crew.

"It was like slow motion," Manicad recalls the moments before the chopper hit the ground. "My first instinct was to find out if my cameraman was alive." The terrifying incident was on cam for Manicad to later see.

Life-threatening scenario

He seemed okay right after that, despite a few bumps here and there. "Two days later, that was when I really cried," Manicad says. He has since avoided riding helicopters if he could help it. The sound of chopper blades are enough to replay in his mind the life-threatening scenario.

Not long after that, Manicad was sent to Iraq to cover the impending war but he and the crew were pulled out before the US bombings began. He continues to do his day-to-day work, sometimes going to disaster-stricken areas to report on the sufferings people undergo.

At age 30, the TV journalist has experienced both direct and vicarious traumatization (VT).

A close brush with death is easy to recognize as a traumatic one. But other experiences could be just as traumatic, only they are not easily recognized, even often denied as one's own.

Extreme experiences

Witnessing extreme suffering of people whom one is tasked to report about. Surviving an attempt on one's life. Harassment and threats from irate persons whose wrongdoing was exposed. Being kidnapped and held by terrorists. Colleagues being murdered. Watching someone's life being violently ended. Photographing hundreds of corpses being loaded onto trucks as was the case in the Ormoc landslides. Being in a crossfire. Listening to stories of despair and hopelessness for long periods and writing about them for long periods. Stepping into disaster scenes and treading on perilous grounds.

These are some incidents in a Filipino working journalist's life that could be either directly or vicariously traumatic. Journalists are not all made of the same stuff and each one copes with extreme experiences in a particular way.

Many journalists could be going through vicarious traumatization (VT) without fully recognizing it as such. "It's all in a day's work," or "Trabaho lang" (It goes with the job), journalists are wont to say with aplomb after emerging from a terrifying coverage. Ice cold beer in a comfort zone, they seem to think, is all it takes to forget the work-related terror.

Many of these experiences could be classified as vicarious traumatization (VT). Vicarious means these are "experienced or realized through imaginative or sympathetic participation in the experience of another."

VT seminar

But journalists need not keep it all to themselves. Like other workers in the service profession who constantly face traumatic situations, they could be helped to cope and deal with their work-related terror, pain and fatigue. Or else these might adversely affect their personal lives.

Aware of the spate of killings of journalists and their life-threatening encounters, the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Center for Professional Development and Consultancy Service recently conducted a seminar on "Vicarious Traumatization Among Journalists." This was meant to help journalists understand VT, its common signs and effects and to help equip them with coping strategies in dealing with trauma, vicariously experienced or otherwise.

Dr. Johnny Decatoria, diplomate and board-certified expert on traumatic stress and psychologist Ma Lourdes C. Medina conducted the VT seminar.

There are countless situations or activities that could be traumatic for journalists. Some of these are war journalism, reporting on disasters and crimes, probing into cases of abuse such as child rape, being constantly in life-threatening situations, etc. Nonstop reporting on stressful situations could take its toll.

Coping techniques

While in training, those in the helping profession – social workers, medical practitioners, rescue workers, psychologists and counselors -- are usually equipped with physical and psychological coping techniques. Not being directly involved, but simply reporting "as outsiders," journalists are often left on their own to nurse their own trauma.

Journalism schools do not always have coping strategies on their curriculum. (The Ateneo University's Konrad Adenauer Center for Journalism has noted clinical psychologist Dr. Lourdes A. Carandang as a resource person on VT.)

Media corporations might be more concerned with circulation and ratings and presume their reporters are made of stern stuff. Working journalists (those doing coverage), like the rest of the working wounded, are simply supposed to deliver.

Shell shock

Journalists' trauma, like the shell shock of soldiers in the battlefield, is slowly being recognized and addressed abroad. But in the Philippines, where the trauma is both direct and vicarious, an empirical study has yet to be done.

Trauma could be physical, psychological or both at the same time. Psychological trauma involves the emotions and the mind. This is the type of trauma that is often denied or neglected.

Vicarious trauma, as differentiated from direct trauma, is "second-hand or indirect." One feels the pain of someone's suffering or one gets traumatized by the trauma experienced by another. Here the journalist is not a player in the ongoing conflict or traumatic event, but is merely reporting.

But the trauma, vicarious or otherwise, does not easily fade away. The aftermath – post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) – could be severe and debilitating.

(To be continued)

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–Laura DiDio, The Yankee Group, April 2004
"Free Software", Unix, and Windows TCO Comparison

The Yankee Group, a global research and consulting firm, concluded that a significant switch to "free software" from Windows or Unix could cost three to four times as much without delivering tangibly better performance or business value. These findings are based on a non-sponsored worldwide survey of 1,000 IT administrators and C-level executives in midsized and large enterprises.

To get the full study, visit **microsoft.com/getthefacts**

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Janet Ley, enjoying her clear, flawless skin.

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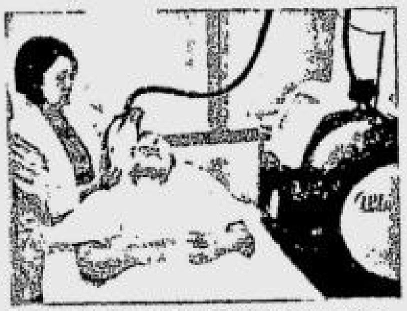
To restore an overall youthful look, IPL can simultaneously treat a wide variety of skin concerns safely and effectively. It erases skin damage with minor disruption on the skin's surface unlike other conventional treatments. As another satisfied client, Dr. Ariel Torres, would attest: "I'm an avid golfer so I'm very much exposed to the sun. That's how I had freckles. And I've tried every whitening product you can possibly think of: whitening cream, whitening lotion, sunblock, scrub, I even bought this thing from Hong Kong that you're supposed to drink to lighten your skin...nothing! It lightens up your skin for a while but you can't expose yourself to the sun anymore. And for avid players like me, that's totally unthinkable! So when I tried IPL, I was really impressed. Just after the first treatment, there were already visible, dramatic results! IPL is really the only treatment that worked for me."



Dr. Joya performing the IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment on a client.

Another satisfied client, Dr. Ariel Torres.

Dr. Maria Isabelita Joya with the IPL machine.

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Why RP lacks teachers

Flunkers, low pay add to woes

By Alcuin Papa

THE COUNTRY produces enough education graduates to arrest the shortage of teachers in the public schools. But many of them do not pass the licensure exams and more opt to go abroad to work as domestics.

Anak ng Bayan Youth Party spokesperson Carl Marc Ramota said many of those who manage to pass the local licensure tests actually teach but then "some of them eventually abandon their profession in favor of jobs that are available here or abroad."

"Teachers who are supposed to supply the brain, so to speak, for the country's youth are themselves part of the brain drain," Ramota said.

He said the current crop of teachers, which he described as "the best and the brightest," are now abroad.

Each year, United States school districts need to hire around 200,000 teachers. So high is the demand that private recruiters plan to place at least a million foreign teachers in American classrooms up to 2007, Ramota said.

"More striking is that a bigger number of them are giving up their jobs and prestige in the Philippines in order to work as housemaids abroad," he said.

Quoting reports from Migrante International, Ramota said some 20 percent of the estimated 160,000 Filipinos working as domestics in Hong Kong, Singapore and countries in the Middle East, are former teachers or at least had teaching backgrounds.

"Ironically, while the public schools are experiencing a shortage of teachers, thousands of college hopefuls flock to Teacher Education programs every year," Ramota said.

In the Philippines, Education is the second most popular college course. Every year, more than 400,000 college students aspire to become teachers, Ramota said.

Practically all tertiary or college level institutions in the country offer degrees in education. From school years 1994-95 to 2001-02, enrollment in education and teacher training courses went up by 46.20 percent.

However, Ramota said, records of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) showed that only a fraction of the thousands who take education courses graduate and pass the licensure examinations. Specifically, only a little more than 100,000 education students reach their senior year.

And of the more than 100,000 who graduate, only a few pass the licensure tests. The 2003 Licensure Examinations for Teachers (LET) only registered a 26-percent passing rate—or, conservatively, 26,000 examinees—for both elementary and secondary education.

This is a far cry from the number of those who enroll every year, estimated at around 400,000. This means only 25 percent of those who graduate pass the LET.

"Many education institutions are producing half-baked graduates who add to the bulk of LET non-passers and unemployed or underemployed teachers. Even these schools are now being turned into diploma mills rather than training grounds for future mentors," Ramota said.

In addition, Ramota said that since 2001, the salaries of government employees, which include teachers, have been frozen. The last salary increases were given in 2000, a 10 percent increase or P440, and in 2001, 5 percent or P242.

A teacher's starting salary is only P9,939 a month, a little higher than the minimum wage in Metro Manila. In April 2005, the family living wage in Metro Manila, or the amount needed to fulfill the needs of a family of six, was pegged at P618.09 daily or P18,542.70 monthly.

Also, Ramota said a study released by the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) showed that teachers in the Philippines worked an average of 1,176 hours per year and taught classes of over 50 students each.

"Definitely, whatever salary they receive does not correspond to their workload," he said.

Hence, Ramota said the teachers should not be blamed for leaving the country or for working as housemaids.

RP seamen's competence upheld

By Jerome Aning

THE INTERNATIONAL Maritime Organization has reaffirmed the competency of Filipino seamen, saying the Philippines was continuously in compliance with the 1978 Convention on Standard Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW).

Acting Labor Secretary Manuel Imson, presiding chair of the Maritime Training Council, said the IMO's statement ensured the Philippines' inclusion in the organization's "White List," which enumerates the countries with competent seafarers.

The list, Imson said, thus serves as a reference for the international shipping industry when it recruits seafarers.

"This augurs well for the preservation and enhancement of the employment of Filipino seafarers on board ocean-going ships. Foreign ship owners will be assured of the competence and capability of the Filipinos operating their ships," he said.

The IMO, in its 80th session on May 20-22 in London, confirmed through its Maritime Safety Committee that the Philippines had communicated the required information on the independent evaluation of the country's Quality Standard System and found the country to be consistently implementing the STCW.

As a party to the convention, the Philippines is required by the IMO to submit a report on the independent evaluation every five years. The report is needed to determine if the parties continue to give full and complete effort to the convention's relevant provisions.

Imson said the Philippines, through the MTC, submitted its report to IMO Secretary General Efthimios Mitropoulos on Jan. 29, 2004, before the IMO deadline.

The Philippine report covered the administration system for the Filipino seafarers' education and training, certification, revalidation and endorsement of certificates.

It also included the result of the independent audit of the quality standards system of the Professional Regulation Commission, Commission on Higher Education, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, National Telecommunications Communication and the MTC Secretariat.

Highly preferred for their industry and facility with the English language, Filipino seafarers constitute some 20-25 percent of seafarers on ships plying international waters.

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		10:15-12:15pm	Updates in Substantive & Procedural Laws (2 CU)	Practice & Procedure Before the Labor Arbiters & NLRC	Dean Froilan M. Bacungan *Former Dean, UP College of Law*
	PM Session ☐	1-3pm	MCLE-Prescribed: Technology & the Law (2 CU)	Scientific Evidence: DNA and its Analysis	Dra. Raquel B. Del Rosario-Fortun *M.D., FPSP, UP College of Medicine*
		3:15-6:15pm	Legal Ethics (3 CU)	The Lawyer's Pitfalls	Justice Hilarion L. Aquino *(ret.)* *Associate Justice, Court of Appeals*
June 25, 2005	AM Session ☐	8-10am	International Law (2 CU)	International Law & the Admission of Aliens	Atty. Ronaldo P. Ledesma *Head, Board of Special Inquiry, BI*
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	PM Session ☐	1-3pm	Trial & Pre-Trial Skills (2 CU)	New Pre-Trial Rules of 2004	Justice Noel G. Tijam *Associate Justice, Court of Appeals*
		3:15-6:15pm	Alternative Dispute Resolution (3 CU)	Mediation & Arbitration of Construction Disputes	Dean Custodio O. Parlade *Former Dean, San Sebastian College of Law, Commercial Arbitrator*
July 2, 2005	AM Session ☐	8-10am	Update in Substantive & Procedural Laws (2 CU)	Taxation Laws & the Corporation	Justice Japar B. Dimaampao *Associate Justice, Court of Appeals*
		10:15-12:15pm	Alternative Dispute Resolution (2 CU)	ADR in the Workplace	Dean Froilan M. Bacungan *Former Dean, UP College of Law*
	PM Session ☐	1-3pm	MCLE-Prescribed: Reforms in the Law (2 CU)	Reforms in the Dangerous Drugs Act	Justice Diosdado M. Peralta *Associate Justice, Sandiganbayan*
		3:15-6:15pm	Legal Ethics (3 CU)	Civil, Criminal & Administrative Liabilities of a Lawyer	Justice Jose L. Sabio, Jr. *Associate Justice, Court of Appeals*
July 9, 2005	AM Session ☐	8-10am	Legal Writing & Oral Advocacy (2 CU)	Pleadings & Appellate Briefs	Justice Hugo E. Gutierrez, Jr. *(ret.)* *Associate Justice, Supreme Court*
		10:15-12:15pm	Updates in Substantive & Procedural Laws (2 CU)	Significant New Provisions & Amendments in the Procedural Rules	Justice Ruben T. Reyes *Associate Justice, Court of Appeals*
	PM Session ☐	1-3pm	Trial & Pre-Trial Skills (2 CU)	Trial Technique	Justice Edilberto G. Sandoval *Associate Justice, Sandiganbayan*
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Water lack new cause of wars in Cordilleras

SAGADA – Mountain springs are the lifeblood of the majestic rice terraces of the northern Philippines, but keeping the emerald stairways to the clouds fit for tourist eyes sometimes required the spilling of blood.

Carved from the sides of towering peaks, some of the plots had gone untended over the past decade as tribes of Igorots, the hardy descendants of headhunters, fought deadly battles for control of the precious but diminishing water sources.

But following a truce in April, the irrigation canals have since been flowing again into the terraces on either side of the mountain, just in time to save the dry season crop of aromatic upland rice.

"We could have avoided this war," says Domingo Kally, the 64-year-old president of the irrigation cooperative of Barangay Fidelisan on the outskirts of the tourist town of Sagada, some 1,212 meters above sea level.

"If only they had had more respect for the boundaries laid down by our forefathers," Kally says, reflecting on the long and destructive conflict with the village of Dalican, across the mountain to the east.

The water war had simmered since the 1990s as the Dalican folk dammed up the stream to divert the water to their village, leading to several killings, says Ben Mangacheo, an official of the National Irrigation Administration.

Living isolated lives amid moss-covered pine forests, the Cordillera peoples had wielded battle axes until World War II and though the days of the grisly practice of headhunting are long gone, the warrior tradition dies hard.

Against Dalican "we used guns," says Kally, standing over an irrigation canal that bisects the village of galvanized iron-walled farm homes that sit on a ridge. Below lie the terraced plots, festooned with scarecrows to drive away seed-eating sparrows.

8 river systems

The Cordillera mountain range serves as the headwaters for eight major river systems that irrigate farms and provide tap water to the northern Philippines.

But forest fires and land conversion into farming or cattle pastures had dried up some aquifers, says government forest ranger Alex Macalling, who supervises a 6,150-ha reforestation project funded by a loan from the Asian Development Bank.

"It has been said that this new century will see a crisis of water, and that wars may even be fought over water," ADB vice president Shin Myoung-Ho has said.

Compromise

In the Cordilleras, blood has already been spilled, but the April truce saw a compromise with Fidelisan's ownership of the springs that feed the stream being recognized by the Dalican, who in turn were guaranteed a share of the water.

"The Fidelisan people agreed to share because three of their people had been taken hostage," says Sagada Mayor Robert Baaten. "After the peace pact the Dalican people released the hostages."

The local governments decided early on that the dispute was beyond the scope of formal law. The municipal governments steered clear of the conflict after a warning by the village elders of both tribes, and no one was prosecuted for the killings.

The quarrel mirrored another bloody, long-running boundary dispute between the villages of Butbut and Betwagan in the northern Cordilleras, and to a lesser degree, Sagada's own longstanding disagreement with neighboring Besao town over tap water access to a tributary of the Abra river.

Frequent problem

The mayor points out this dispute has been peaceful. "We will try to negotiate with the Besao people to allow us to build a dam," Baaten says.

"Disputes over water rights are becoming a frequent problem now," says provincial engineer Arsenio Dungail. "With the increased population, the water sources will not be enough to supply everyone."

A major earthquake devastated the northern Philippines 15 years ago and altered the course of Cordillera mountain streams.

"Right after the earthquake in 1990, when the sources of water for these areas were gone, some areas became denuded," says Cameron Odsey, chief agriculturist for the Cordillera region. "The spring water went underground."

The mountainous terrain and poor road networks make the five provinces of the Cordilleras – populated by 1.4 million people who are physically related to the Mongols and the Ainu minorities of Japan – among the poorest in the Philippines.

Rich in minerals

Their sole link to the outside world is a landslide-prone highway blasted out of limestone. The road, often covered in mist that reduces visibility to near zero, snakes across the brows of mountains that soar more than 2,121 meters.

Despite its rich mineral endowment, only two commercial gold and copper mines are in operation and its residents rely almost entirely on farming terraced plots by the side of the mountains, supplemented by government jobs and tourism.

Tourism is a major industry of the Cordilleras, but due to its remoteness visitors tend to be funneled into a few areas – Baguio City and La Trinidad. Sagada is accessible only by a dirt road and is visited by backpackers who want to see the underground caves and Igorot coffins hanging from limestone cliffs.

Big trees

Subita Dew-ey arrived in the upper reaches of the Cordilleras as a teenaged bride in 1958. She remembers helping her husband clear a pine forest in the town of Bauko, on the edge of the 5,100-ha Mount Data National Park.

A WOMAN walks past a row of scarecrows keeping birds away from a terraced rice field in Sagada. Water disputes between villages have left some of the rice fields without water and in ruins. AFP

"When we first came here, the trees were so big two men could not wrap their arms around them," Dew-ey, now a newly widowed 66-year-old tells AFP as she works her .5-ha cabbage patch.

But when the rains are poor, the crops fail and the children go hungry.

"One time we had to return to Cervantes," she tells AFP, pointing west with her stubby, dirt encrusted fingers to her native town on the lower reaches of the Cordilleras. "There we had to plant corn, yams and cassava."

The demise of the mining sector due to low prices of metals in the early 1990s, and more recently due to popular opposition based on environmental grounds, also swelled the population of the farm-dependent upland villages, Odsey says.

"When the mines closed, the miners went home and it had a major impact on the rural population," he says.

"They had left behind swidden (*kaingin*) farms for five, 10 years. Now they go back to these swidden farms, and communal lands are being claimed, leading to conflicts and tribal wars," he says. *AFP*

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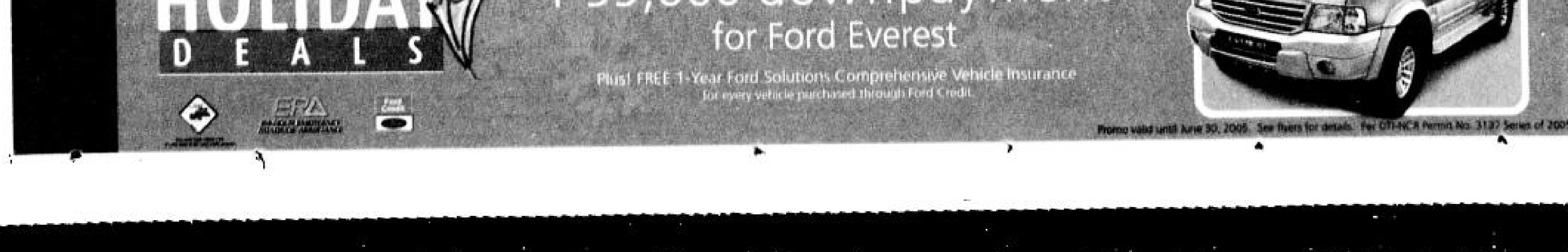

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Mikey goes on leave from House; Iggy bides time

From page A1

because they are the ones who elected me to Congress," the older Arroyo said as the framed photograph of his embattled sister-in-law, the President, loomed behind him at the presidential lounge of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Centennial terminal.

He, however, stressed that resigning from Congress was "out of the question," as he reiterated his innocence of the corruption charges hurled against him.

The younger brother of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo held the press conference upon his arrival from Singapore yesterday at 5:20 p.m. He left last week to spend "quality time" with his wife and young daughter, whom he took on a night safari and the zoo.

Iggy Arroyo said he would reach a decision by today or tomorrow, following the "advice of his constituents."

"I'll talk to the barangay captains, to the people. I will take this to their level. I owe it to them," he said.

He added that he was set to file libel charges against his accuser, confessed jueteng bagwoman Sandra Cam, as he also welcomed the investigation of the Office of the Ombudsman into his alleged involvement in jueteng payoffs.

He also stressed that members of the President's family "have not done anything wrong."

"I'm sure she (Ms Arroyo) believes that I am innocent," he said.

Can defend themselves

But as far as Ms Arroyo was concerned, family members involved in a corruption scandal were on their own in defending themselves.

"They will take care of themselves, they will take care of their own defense," the President said in an interview published in the June 13 edition of Time magazine, in which she graced the cover.

Her statement was clearly an attempt to distance herself from allegations that her husband, son and brother-in-law had received payoffs from jueteng.

On June 8, when she ordered the Department of Justice to investigate her son and brother-in-law, Ms Arroyo said: "Nobody in my family or kin are above the law and no investigator or prosecutor could fear to uphold the law against them."

"I will stand for justice no matter who gets hurt," she said.

Family comes last

In the Time interview, the President made it clear that her family came last in her order of priorities.

She said it was her late father, President Diosdado Macapagal, who advised her that as a public servant, "the priority is God first, then country and family is last."

"So I have to be a wife last," Ms Arroyo said. "My attitude is that family comes last."

Asked how her husband and son were coping with the corruption accusations against them, she told Time that her husband "was very much upset, because he is very misunderstood."

"For my son—well, this is a shocker for him," the President said. "It is an introduction to Politics 101," referring to the fact that her son was a neophyte congressman.

In the same interview, Ms Arroyo stressed that "nobody was above the law" and "let the chips fall where they may."

The President said she was more concerned about doing her job. "I am very, very focused on my work, like a laser beam on the fiscal reforms."

Impartial investigation

Malacañang yesterday said the public could be assured of an "impartial and transparent" government investigation on the allegations that the President's son was involved in gambling payoffs now that he had announced he was taking a leave of absence from Congress.

In a brief statement, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye "lauded" the move. "For too long, rumor, innuendo and unsubstantiated allegations have been hurled ostensibly against him but really against the President," he said.

With Mikey Arroyo on leave, Bunye said this would "pave the way for an impartial and transparent investigation by the Ombudsman."

The Office of the Ombudsman is now investigating the jueteng payoffs after the President ordered it to take over the job from the Department of Justice.

Good decision

Senate President Franklin Drilon, who had suggested to Ms Arroyo to institute reforms in view of the "perceived involvement" of her family in jueteng, also praised Mikey Arroyo for his decision.

"At the least, I hope the gesture would lessen the political tension and reinforce the public perception that under this administration, as GMA herself said, no one is above the law," he said.

Sen. Richard Gordon yesterday welcomed the decision as a "sure sign of statesmanship."

"By taking a leave, he has shown willingness to put the interest of the nation above all else, and that he defers and has respect for the rule of law," Gordon said in a phone interview.

Earlier in the day, opposition Sen. Jamby Madrigal said that calls for the Arroyo congressmen to resign were part of a tactic to divert attention away from the more serious charges of electoral fraud against Ms Arroyo.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. welcomed the administration lawmakers' calls for the resignation of the two Arroyos.

"It's good that they thought of it. That's better than nothing," he said at a briefing, even as he dismissed speculations that these were diversionary. "It's a step toward the eventual goal of asking the President to resign."

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon also said that calls for the resignation of the two lawmakers should be heeded to repair the President's "damaged capacity" to govern.

Innocent until proven guilty

Administration allies in the House immediately lauded Mikey Arroyo for voluntarily going on leave, but at least one opposition lawmaker said it would set a wrong precedent.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles and Nueva Ecija Rep. Aurelio Umali said the Pampanga lawmaker did the right thing.

"Mikey has exemplified statesmanship and *delicadeza* for opting to go on leave in the course of the jueteng probe," said Nograles, adding that the leave of absence would have to be approved by Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Umali said calls for the Arroyo congressmen to resign were without any legal basis since these had been made in reaction to unsubstantiated allegations of their involvement in jueteng.

"The Constitution says that an individual is innocent until proven guilty. What has happened in the Senate probe is that those implicated have been tarred as guilty until proven innocent," he said.

Bad precedent

Quezon City Rep. Vincent "Bingbong" Crisologo described the decision as a "bad precedent" because Mikey Arroyo "has reacted on the basis of unsubstantiated accusations made in the Senate, and the authorities have yet to begin their probe to ascertain the truth of these allegations."

While it was laudable on the part of Arroyo to pledge his full cooperation to the probe, he said it was still premature because "he could have done so without taking a leave of absence from his duties as a legislator."

"If it can be proven that Congressman Arroyo is guilty, then he should not only be stripped of office, he should be punished and imprisoned," said Crisologo.

Mikey Arroyo may have gone on leave, but he has yet to answer adequately the accusations against him, according to House Minority Leader Francis Escudero.

"He should answer squarely the charges against him," Escudero said. "True or not, there is a negative perception among the public about them. Resigning or going on leave is not the solution. They should answer the accusations and not issue blanket denials."

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said yesterday that the young lawmaker could be liable for "abandonment of post."

In a telephone interview, Gonzalez said, "I was the one who raised the question of abandonment of post… The constituents are the ones who will be suffering," he said.

Mikey Arroyo could not say if he would go back to Congress when it resumes session on July 25, but a congressional source said he would "be out of sight" until the political heat generated by the jueteng inquiry subsided.

It had yet to be ascertained if his action was a calculated move by Malacañang to save the presidency following calls from Senators Drilon, Magsaysay, Gordon and Lacson to sanction erring members of the First Family.

Low profile

In Senate hearings, jueteng witnesses Wilfredo Mayor, Richard Garcia and Cam alleged that Mikey Arroyo received a monthly jueteng bribe ranging from P500,000 to P600,000, while Iggy Arroyo received P400,000.

So far, no witness has come out to directly implicate the First Gentleman.

Calls for Ms Arroyo's husband to take "a low profile" were gathering steam among Malacañang officials keen on reversing the tide of public opinion against the President.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, in a press conference last week, said the decision of whether the First Gentleman should lie low was a personal matter and should be discussed between husband and wife.

Anakpawis party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran yesterday advised Mikey Arroyo to quit his post and focus on his fledgling movie career.

According to the imdb.com website, Mikey last appeared in the movies "Masamang Ugat" and "A.B. Normal," both produced in 2003. He has a forthcoming movie with Ethel Booba and a host of other congressmen titled, "Sablay ka na, Pasaway ka pa," under Cine Suerte Pictures. ***With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Juliet Labog-Javellana, Philip C. Tubeza, Armand Nocum and TJ Burgonio***

Spy denies being tape source

From page A1

audio recording. He said he was simply asked to read a statement about government irregularities in exchange for which he would be given a post in a revolutionary government that would replace the Arroyo administration.

"They just wanted me to confirm that the tape came from the intelligence service," Doble said.

Distraught wife

In yet another amazing twist to the "tale of the tapes," the Doble story unfolded when the sergeant's distraught wife showed up in Manila and called her husband yesterday morning to ask his whereabouts. Arlene had arrived over the weekend from Kidapawan and said she had not seen her husband for two weeks.

Arlene said she sensed Doble's reluctance to speak to her on the phone. She said she asked him if he needed help. He only mumbled "mmm …" It meant there was someone with him, she said.

He told her to turn off the phone and to expect a text message. "I am at San Carlos seminary, room 29, at the back, near the squatters' area," his later message read.

Police and military officials later said Arlene requested assistance to rescue her husband who allegedly was being detained against his will. Battle-ready troops and an armored personnel carrier were sent to the Seminary.

Bishop Socrates Villegas was enlisted to help get Doble out of the seminary.

On the brink of tears

"What can I do for you?" Villegas said when he saw Doble, who appeared "distressed" and on the "brink of tears."

"I just want to make sure that my children are safe," Doble said.

Villegas said he told Doble he could take him to his family. When Doble kept silent, Villegas called up his wife on her cell phone and allowed them to speak to each other.

Doble reportedly immediately asked his wife about their kids. After telling his wife "I love you," he told the bishop he was ready to join his family. They were later expected to be moved to a safehouse.

Ong had said Doble handed him the cassette tapes purportedly containing the hacked telephone conversation between Ms Arroyo and Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillana.

Ong had told reporters that he had filmed the event as evidence that the recordings came from the army intelligence service—a claim Doble disputed.

How Doble got into the tightly guarded seminary, where Ong had sought sanctuary after the former National Bureau of Investigation official announced on Friday he had the authentic recordings of the wiretapped presidential conversation, remained unclear.

But Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, Philippine National Police spokesperson, said that based on Arlene's statement, Ong could be held liable for illegal detention.

Ong's lawyers denied Doble was held against his will in the seminary.

Doble joined the Philippine Air Force in 1979. He transferred to the Isafp 10 years later.

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More Koreans than Japanese now visit RP

By Jerome Aning

FOR THE first time, South Korea has overtaken Japan as the Philippines' principal source of foreign tourists from the East Asia-West Pacific region, the Department of Tourism said yesterday, as it released visitor arrival figures for the first trimester of 2005.

The DOT's tourism research and statistics division said 147,671 South Koreans visited the Philippines between January and April 2005, compared to 138,620 Japanese.

In the same period last year, 122,329 Korean and 128,528 Japanese visitors came to the country.

Overall, however, South Korea placed second to the United States in the DOT's list of foreign tourist arrivals while Japan ranked third. A total of 184,109 American tourists visited the Philippines in the first four months of the year.

From January to April this year, a total of 852,583 foreign tourist arrivals was recorded, or 10.5 percent more than the 771,569 visitors who came to the country in the same period last year.

Durano upbeat

Tourism Secretary Joseph Durano said he was confident the country would continue to lure more tourists in the coming months.

"We believe the growth can continue as other ongoing and upcoming campaigns will add greater results in the next six months and we hope this positive outcome remains until we reach our target of five million foreign visitors by 2010," Durano said.

For South Koreans, the DOT adopted the slogan, "Feel the Philippines," to appeal to their emotional nature and prepared packages for them to better appreciate the "real taste" of the country.

The DOT's Team Korea chief Marico Basco-Ebron earlier said the South Korean market had proved to be the most resilient source of tourists for the Philippines.

Koreans not intimidated

"Living in a country that was always jittery with the threat of invasion, South Koreans are not easily intimidated by issues of security," she said.

The Korean peninsula was split in two in the early 1950s after the communist north and the democratic south fought what came to be known as the Korean War. Today, North Korea continues to threaten the south.

Travel agents and tour operators also point out that South Koreans, like Filipinos, are used to labor unrest and antigovernment protests.

"They describe the Philippines as having many islands and many troubles, a developing country with poverty but at the same time an inexpensive honeymoon and golfing destination," Ebron said.

The DOT is targeting Korean holiday-revelers, honeymooners, students and special interest groups such as divers and golfers.

According to Ebron, the average South Korean tourist is male, between 31-50 years old, and either a professional, a technical worker or a businessman.

He usually comes in November-January or July-August, stays at hotels and resorts, and goes to Manila and Cebu for sight-seeing, shopping and visiting natural and historical sites.

Many are independent travelers who come for pleasure or business or to visit friends and relatives. They spend most of their money on accommodations, food, beverages and shopping.

More than half are first-time visitors, of which half are likely to repeat their visit to the Philippines. Most heard about the country from their friends, relatives or business associates.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, June 14, 2005
11th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 2 Cor 8:1-9
Gospel: Matthew 5:43-48

Jesus said to his disciples, "You have heard that it was said: Love your neighbor and do not do good to your enemy. But this I tell you: Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in Heaven. For he makes his sun rise on both the wicked and the good, and he gives rain to both the just and the unjust.

"If you love those who love you, what is special about that? Do not even tax collectors do as much? And if you are friendly only to your friends, what is so exceptional about that? Do not even the pagans do as much? For your part you shall be righteous and perfect in the way your heavenly Father is righteous and perfect."

Commentary

The sermon and the beatitudes all lead to these last pieces. We are to love, not just our kin and country but we are to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us so that we act like children of our Father. Love our enemies—that means first of all—do not kill them, attack them, demonize them, blame them for everything that is wrong in our lives and economies and treat them as deserving of anything we can subject them to—all self-righteously thinking we are Christians. Our Father lets the sun and rain fall on the just and the unjust—and that includes us, not always in the just category. We are to love, not just those who love us, or who are like us, but those we are afraid of, don't know and don't want to know and those who do harm (remembering that others look upon us in the same vein). We are children of the Father, with Jesus, like Jesus and we are to be righteous and holy like our God—same exhortation as the Jews in the earlier testament, but now, more specific and demanding so that we can't just pick and choose who we'll practice on. Look around the world is waiting for this kind of love that stops evil, does no harm to the other and invites enemies to be friends of God.

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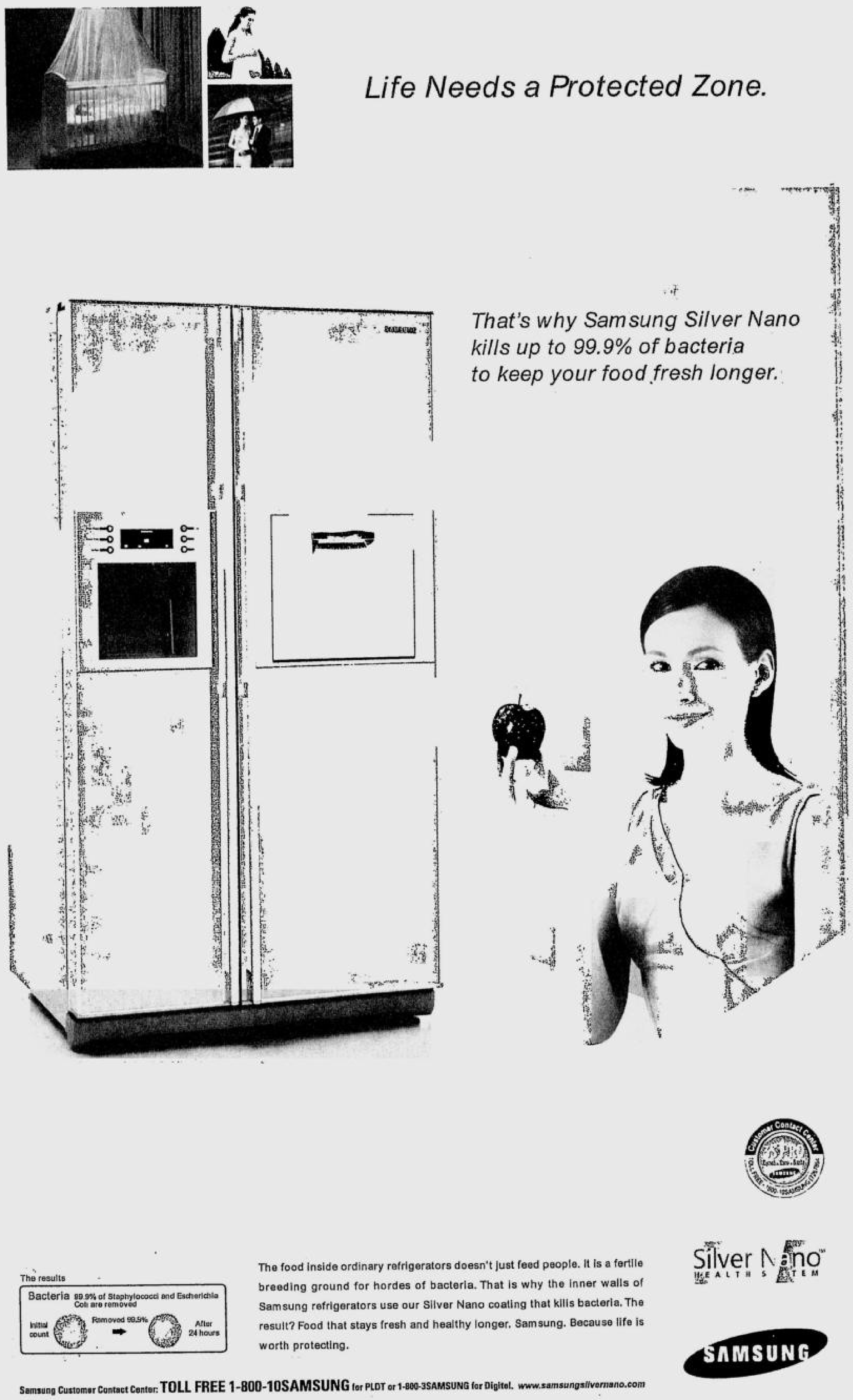
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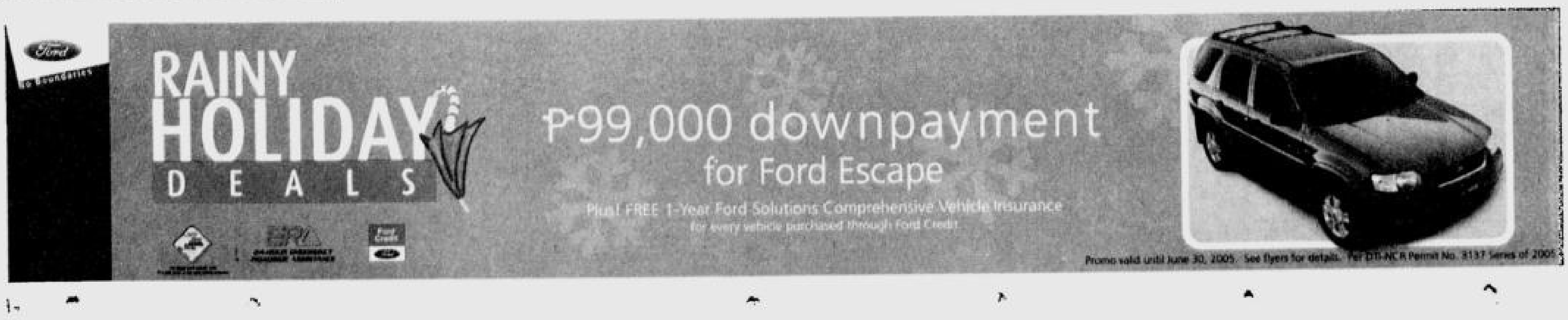
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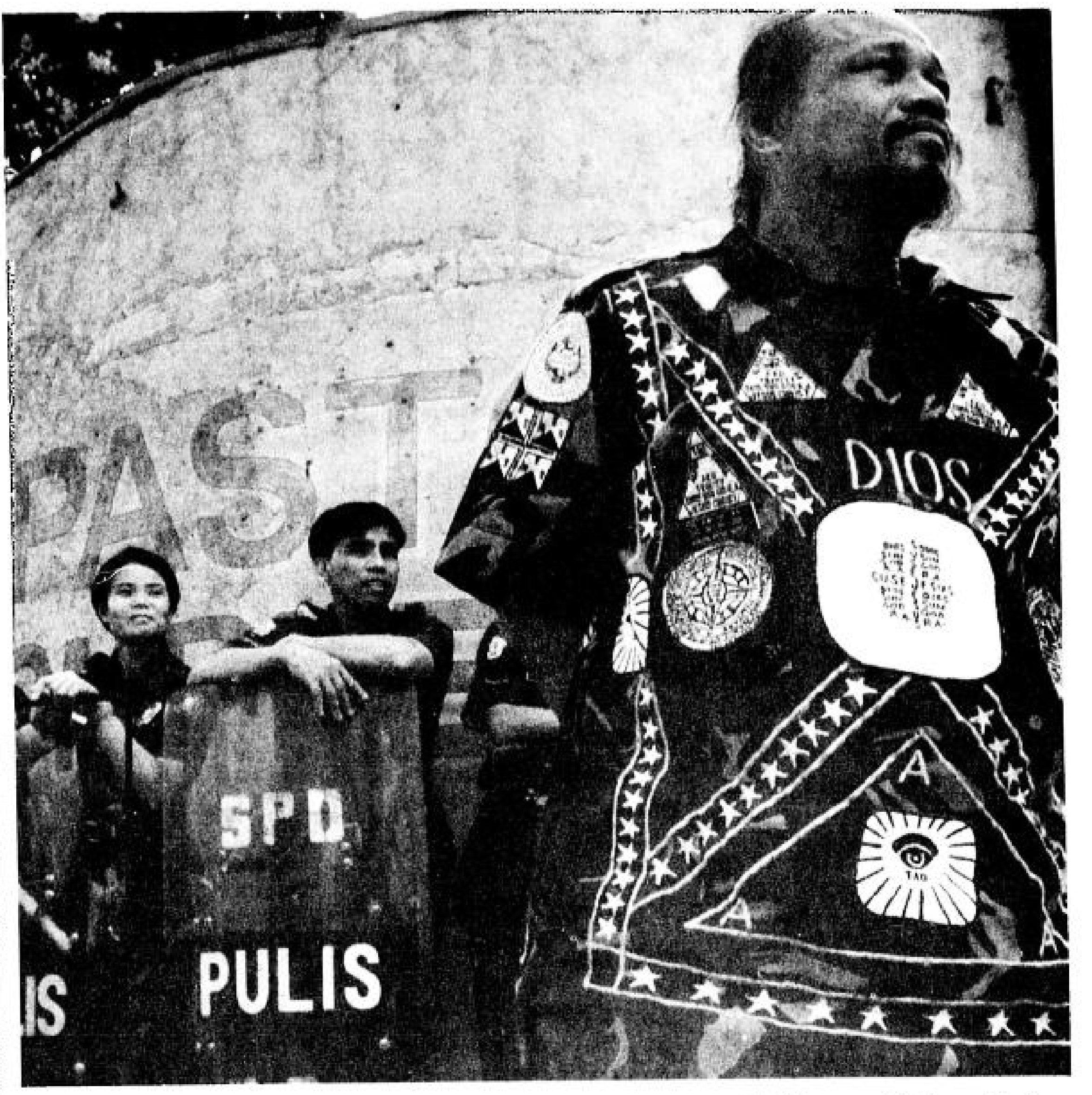

AN UNIDENTIFIED man, who claimed to be the Lord of Lords and General of the World, appeared in front of the San Carlos Seminary along Edsa where NBI Deputy Director Samuel Ong had taken refuge. REM ZAMORA

Ong slips out of seminary

From page A1

Samuel Ong out of the San Carlos Seminary along Edsa, fearing police and soldiers would force him out of the facility where he had taken refuge since Friday, said Ong's lawyer Liwayway Vinzons-Chato. He was accompanied by Bishop Teodoro Bacani and two other prelates and two priests.

Five Army trucks—each crammed with 15 to 20 soldiers—and two armored personnel carriers had deployed outside the seminary hours earlier. Chato said some of the soldiers attempted to scale the seminary walls, prompting the decision to move Ong to an undisclosed location.

Fr. Robert Reyes later told the INQUIRER that the Church had not abandoned Ong. It was not immediately known if the churchmen would surrender Ong once a warrant for his arrest was issued, as they had said. The warrant was expected to be handed out today when the courts open after the three-day Independence Day weekend.

Earlier, Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, Philippine National Police spokesperson, said police would avoid an armed confrontation with Ong and seek the help of Church leaders to resolve the deadlock.

"We will keep him safe from any harm," said Bataoil, "unless he takes his own life."

He said police would prepare for the possibility of an armed confrontation with Ong but would try and ensure that it did not happen.

Dead meat

As the impasse in the seminary went into a third day, Ong had said in radio interviews that he feared for his life if he were taken by police because of his disclosure.

"I won't be arrested alive," he said. "Once I leave the seminary, I tell you I'm dead meat."

He had appealed to Filipinos to mount an Edsa-style massing similar to those that led to the ouster of Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph Estrada from the presidency. But few responded to his plea.

Ong surfaced on Friday to claim that he had the "mother of all tapes" of an alleged wiretapped telephone conversation between Ms Arroyo and Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano purporting to show that she had cheated in the last election.

He said the tape was given to him by members of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp).

Ong's disclosure further muddled a bizarre controversy triggered a week ago when Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye claimed he had a doctored CD purporting to show that Ms Arroyo was pressing for a one-million vote margin over her closest rival, the late movie actor Fernando Poe Jr. *(See timeline on front page.)*

He said the tape had been tampered with by Ms Arroyo's opponents in a bid to unseat her.

Bunye at first said the woman's voice was that of Ms Arroyo, but he later backtracked. He did not identify the man's voice, but opposition politicians and media reports identified it as that of Garcillano.

Garcillano has denied the allegations.

Alan Paguia, Estrada's former lawyer, last Tuesday came out with another tape and claimed it was the original wiretap.

Police and NBI officials have said they are seeking a warrant of arrest against Ong for alleged violation of the Anti-Wiretapping Law and sedition.

Ong's plea

As the standoff appeared to be coming to a head, Ong pleaded with Susan Roces, Poe's widow, to summon a "people power" show of support.

"I ask her to give me protection. Once I'm out of here, no one will protect me ... With her big heart, I know she will come and give me succor," he said.

Roces went to the seminary for a five-hour meeting with Ong on Saturday, but she later said any action that should be taken in connection with the controversy should be in accordance with the law. *With reports from Leila B. Salaverria, Christian V. Esguerra and Norman Bordadora*

'Do not disturb' sign up: Dolphins mating

From page A1

Strait to watch the beautiful sea creatures are advised to remain absolutely quiet.

Dr. Lemnuel Aragones explained that dolphins and whales need privacy, especially during summer, the breeding season for most animals.

"Dolphin-watching used to be simple because there were very few boats involved in its operation," said Aragones, a Filipino marine professor at the University of Miami in Florida and at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, Laguna.

"But there has been an increase in the number of boats in the last four years. Most of the boats do not know how to maneuver around these dolphins and whales," he said.

Workshop

Aragones and Dr. Edward Keith of the Nova Southeastern University in Florida were resource persons in a two-day seminar-workshop on whale and dolphin-watching and the conservation of cetaceans in southern Tañon Strait.

The June 8-9 workshop was sponsored by Bais City, Negros Oriental, and the SeaWorld Busch Gardens Conservation Fund, a US-based nonprofit foundation dedicated to wildlife conservation, research, education and animal rescue.

Among those who attended were operators of dolphin and whale-watching tours, as well as legislators from Bais and Tanjay cities, Manjuyod town in Negros Oriental, and from the towns of Ginatilan, Samboan, Malabuyoc and Alegria in Cebu.

Protocols

The seminar aimed to set up guidelines and protocols to ensure that the dolphins were not disturbed and to come up with suggestions on how to make dolphin and whale-watching activities sustainable.

"For a long time now, we always clapped our hands and shouted at the sight of these dolphins and whales. We never realized these creatures could be intimidated by the sound," said Bais Mayor Hector "Tata" Villanueva.

"This protocol would really change dolphin and whale-watching tours as we know it," said Bais Councilor Angelo Teves, chair of the city's environment committee.

The tours are a major revenue earner for Bais. From an annual income of P400,000 five years ago, it now grosses P1.6 million a year, said city tourism officer Antonio Serrano Jr.

Aragones and Keith also revealed findings of their current study, showing a decline in the number of species sighted in the area in the last five years.

Fishermen's fear

Dolphins and whales have been observed to show evasive behavior. "This could have resulted from disturbance from boats or entanglement with fishing gear," Aragones said.

He debunked a widespread belief among fishermen that dolphins had caused the decline in their fish catch.

"The overwhelming reason for the decline of fish catch is overfishing or illegal fishing. Dolphins are not responsible for overeating the resources," Aragones said.

He said this topic had been discussed all throughout the world and the question that needed to be answered was: "What is the impact of overfishing on the cetaceans?"

Tañon Strait was declared a protected seascape under Presidential Proclamation No. 1234 issued by then President Fidel V. Ramos. It is the habitat of 11 of the 24 species of marine mammals found in the Philippines.

The area was to be managed by a Tañon Strait Commission, but the agency was dissolved in 2001 and has yet to start operations.

Deny Erap Bible study, prosecutor asks court

SPECIAL Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio has asked the Sandiganbayan to deny the request of a daughter of ousted President Joseph Estrada to hold weekly Bible study sessions at the latter's Tanay, Rizal, estate where he is under detention while undergoing trial on plunder and perjury charges.

Villa-Ignacio said Teresa "Techie" Ejercito's request should be denied as it would set a precedent for others who may want to spend time with Estrada.

He said the antigraft court's Special Division hearing the Estrada cases should not veer from its earlier decision denying Makati City Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino's request to hold a birthday celebration for Estrada at the estate last April. Aquino was Estrada's classmate at the Ateneo and he and 12 other former classmates wanted to party with the former President.

The Special Division, in denying Aquino's request, had said the Joseph Ejercito Estrada Youth Camp, the official name of the 15-ha estate, was "a place of detention of Estrada subject to the control and supervision of the Philippine National Police and not a social hall for holding revelries where people can simply come in and out."

Villa-Ignacio said the prosecution had nothing against Estrada attending Bible studies at his villa.

"With the daily uncertainties, sufferings and trials in life, one can only turn to the Omnipresent One for guidance and strength. There are recognized limitations though that need to be considered in the case of the deposed President," Villa-Ignacio said.

Aside from security reasons, Villa-Ignacio said, "There are additional unwarranted expenses that the government has to face in order to ensure the safety of Estrada and his guests during the said Bible study meetings."

Estrada, meanwhile, said the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo was slowly being unmasked for what it was – scandal-ridden and corrupt.

Speaking over the weekend through his spokesperson, former Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen, Estrada said the contents of the alleged wiretapped conversations between Ms Arroyo and Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, the reported involvement of her husband, son and borther-in-law in the "jueteng" scandal and other anomalies were proof of this.

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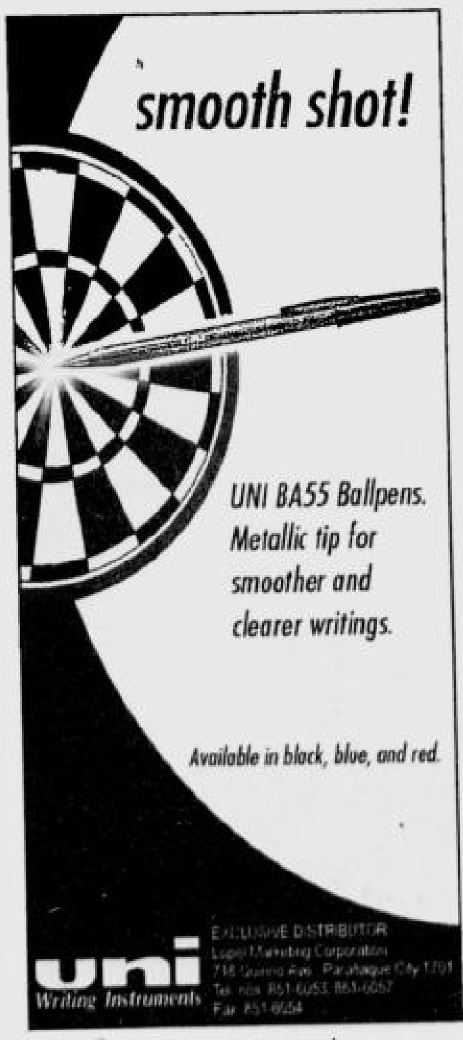
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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

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AN IRANIAN woman shows her support for presidential candidate Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani during a rally in Tehran June 12. AFP

Iran hit by wave of bombings before key polls; US blamed

AHVAZ, Iran—Iran was struck by a wave of deadly bombings in this restive southwestern city and the capital Sunday, with the Islamic regime accusing US-backed "terrorists" of seeking to destabilize the country just days ahead of presidential elections.

At least eight people were killed and 75 wounded by a series of four blasts outside several public buildings in Ahvaz, an ethnic Arab majority city close to the Iraqi border that is capital of oil-rich Khuzestan province.

Later Sunday, another blast hit a busy square in Tehran, killing two people and seriously wounding at least two others, official media said.

Two smaller home-made bombs were reported to have exploded in other parts of the capital, without causing any casualties.

"The terrorists of Ahvaz infiltrated Iran from the region of Basra" in southern Iraq, top national security official Ali Agha Mohammadi told AFP.

"These terrorists have been trained under the umbrella of the Americans in Iraq," he charged, adding that Iran suspected British troops across the border might also have links to the separatist group—the London-based Ahvaz Arab People's Democratic-Popular Front.

"We call on the Americans and the British to condemn these attacks and hand over the terrorists in Iraq. Sadly, they have so far not said anything," Mohammadi said.

He said "several terrorists have been arrested," but gave no further details.

Ahvaz was hit by several days of ethnic unrest in April, with the 26-year-old Islamic regime then blaming "counter-revolutionaries."

Iran's main armed opposition group, the People's Mujahedeen, is based across the border in Iraq, and Mohammadi said he believed they were involved in some of Sunday's attacks in Tehran.

"The calls for a boycott of the vote had failed, so the terrorist groups based in Iraq are trying to use attacks to disrupt the election and prevent a strong voter participation," he said.

Iran is due to go to the polls to elect a new president on Friday.

"The attacks are a failure, because in the past the regime has been confronted by far worse," said Khuzestan's deputy governor, Gholam Reza Shariati.

An AFP reporter in Ahvaz said the area around the local governor's office, one of three public buildings targeted, was strewn with shards of glass and rubble.

Scores of police had sealed off the area, and by early evening municipal workers were already clearing the scene and mopping up pools of blood.

"It was inhuman, a horrible thing. There was a small child walking around looking for his dead mother," said Abdol Hossein Kord-Zanghaneh, a male nurse at an Ahvaz hospital where many of the casualties were taken.

"This is an American plot," he said, adding that many of the wounded had suffered concussion and blown ear drums.

The huge blasts occurred between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., hitting the governor's office, two other public buildings and a residential area which is home to the director of state television operations in Ahvaz.

The explosion in Tehran occurred at Imam Hossein square, Interior Ministry spokesperson Jahanbaksh Khanjani told AFP. Witnesses said the blast was heard after 8 p.m., adding the bomb was hidden in a rubbish bin.

Ahvaz, situated 500 km southeast of Tehran and 50 km from the Iraqi border, was rocked by ethnic violence from April 15-18. *AFP*

UN calls on Malaysia to let refugees work

KUALA LUMPUR—The UN refugee agency on Monday urged Malaysia to allow thousands of refugees living there to work, saying it would help relieve an acute labor shortage caused by a crackdown on illegal workers.

Malaysia had launched "a desperate search" for new foreign workers from Pakistan and elsewhere, said Volker Turk, head of the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) in Malaysia. "Why not use the existing refugee population that cannot be deported anyway for economic purposes?

"Some of them are already working anyway, illegally, to gain a source of income. Why not legalize and regularize that?" he told a UN-sponsored conference on migration and refugee issues.

Allowing refugees to seek legal employment would benefit Malaysia's economy and demonstrate its humanitarian credentials, he said.

"What the crackdown has shown is that it has made clear that the Malaysian economy depends on foreign labor," he later told reporters.

Malaysia is one of Asia's largest importers of labor. Foreign workers, legal and illegal, number around 2.6 million of its workforce of 10.5 million.

The repatriation of about 400,000 illegal immigrants, mainly low-wage Indonesian workers, during a four-month amnesty that ended in March left a huge gap in the agricultural, construction, manufacturing and services sectors.

"It may be in the long-term humanitarian, security and economic interests of Malaysia to allow the estimated 50,000 refugees here in the country to enter the job market as readily available foreign labor," said Turk.

There are some 40,000 refugees already registered with the UNHCR in Malaysia—about 20,000 from Indonesia's troubled Aceh province and some 10,000 Muslim Rohingyas from military-run Burma, formerly known as Burma.

The remaining 10,000 are other ethnic minorities from Burma and elsewhere. *AFP*

France welcomes hostage's return but puzzled by official silence

PARIS—France celebrated Monday the return home of a French journalist held hostage in Iraq for five months, but questions about the circumstances of her captivity and release were deflected by authorities who denied a ransom had been paid.

The repatriation Sunday of Florence Aubenas, a 44-year-old senior correspondent for the Liberation newspaper, made the front page of all the country's dailies and dominated news broadcasts.

Aubenas and her Iraqi interpreter, Hussein Hanun, also 44, were freed Saturday by the unidentified group that had abducted them outside a Baghdad hotel on Jan. 5.

President Jacques Chirac and other officials said their release owed much to a high-profile public campaign of support and to a behind-the-scenes operation by intelligence and military services.

They would not give any details, however, and a smiling but thin Aubenas, in her brief comments to journalists on arrival in Paris, said she would put off giving a full account of her ordeal to Tuesday.

Hanun, who returned to his home and family in Baghdad, has not given any information, either.

Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy, who met with the freed reporter in Cyprus to bring her back to Paris on an air force jet, said Monday no details would be forthcoming out of concern for the safety of other people he said were held hostage in the same place Aubenas was kept.

"You'll understand I can say absolutely nothing about that," he told RTL radio.

"Out of respect for the safety of these people, there are things that cannot be talked about."

The government has categorically denied a suggestion made by the head of the Paris-based media rights group Reporters Without Borders, Robert Menard, and others that a ransom was paid.

But that did not stop media speculating that France had paid some sort of price to secure the return of Aubenas.

The Liberation daily, in a 20-page spread on its correspondent's drama, noted the government denial but said "common sense says there is no release without something in return and common sense obviously is not wrong."

It said that, although kept informed of some of the official moves, it did not know whether a ransom was paid.

"The truth is that, beyond the president of the republic and a few of his collaborators, nobody knows (and probably will never know with certainty) what were the terms that returned Florence and Hussein to freedom."

A government was also able to give compensation "not necessarily in financial form" to avoid the ultimately counterproductive perception that it would always pay for the return of one of its citizens, the paper said.

Serge July, the chief editor of Liberation, did not identify the kidnappers, but spoke of rampant "organized crime" in Iraq, where hostage-takers now "know the price of journalists, and especially that of French journalists."

The abduction of foreigners and Iraqis has become rampant over the past year, with more than an estimated 150 people being taken in that time by groups said to range from anti-US insurgents and fundamentalist al-Qaida loyalists to simple criminal gangs.

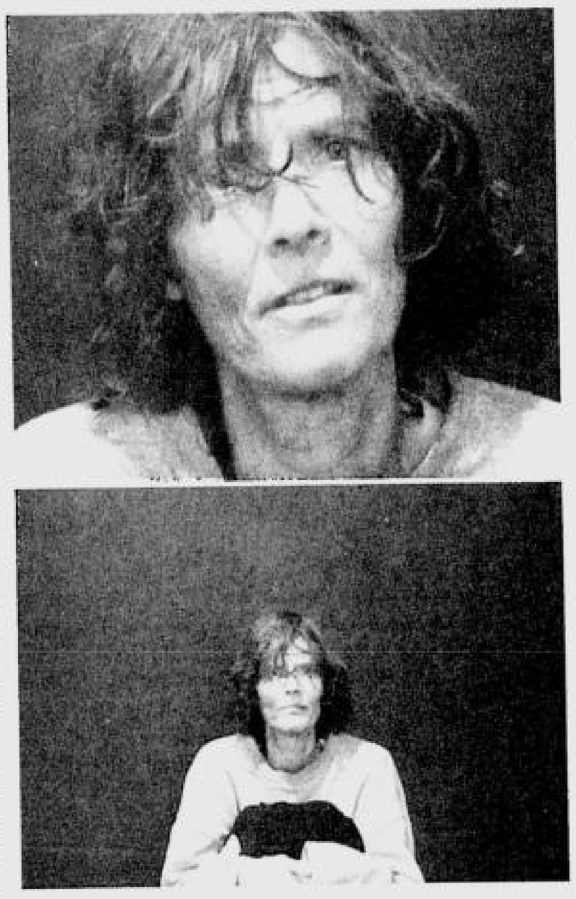
There are believed to be more than 20 foreign hostages still in Iraq, including citizens of Australia, Brazil, Egypt, Japan, Jordan, the Philippines, Turkey and the United States.

The only time the French public saw Aubenas during her captivity was March 1, when a video was released of her looking gaunt and desperate and pleading for help.

In the video, she made a direct appeal to a renegade lawmaker in Chirac's ruling party, Didier Julia, who headed up an unofficial negotiation team that worked in parallel with government efforts to free two other French reporters taken hostage who were finally released in December.

Liberation said Julia, who has links to Syria, "had nothing to do" with Aubenas' release, but it and other newspapers asked what role he might have played to be named in the video.

An unnamed French-Iraqi man with ties to Julia was quoted by Liberation as saying he paid 50,000 euros ($60,000) to obtain the video, without specifying whether he simply bought it or ordered it made. *AFP*



FRENCH journalist Florence Aubenas smiling upon her arrival at Villacoublay's military airport, west of Paris, June 12 (top photo). At left, a combination of two video stills from a tape in Baghdad March 1, shows Aubenas pleading for her life in an undisclosed location. AFP PHOTOS

Discovery of more tortured bodies raises tensions in Iraq

BAGHDAD—Iraqi police on Monday announced the discovery of six more bodies in Baghdad, most of them tortured before being executed, again raising the specter of sectarian violence in the strife-torn country.

The grim find came a day after police said 20 decomposed cadavers had been unearthed outside the capital and as Iraq and France celebrated the release of a French journalist and her Iraqi fixer after a five-month hostage ordeal.

Three bodies, including those of two tortured policemen brothers, were found in eastern Baghdad, police said Monday, and another three unidentified, blindfolded and tortured bodies in the north of the capital.

Police said on Sunday they had found the decomposed bodies of 20 executed men near Nahrawan, southeast of the capital, who had also been tortured before dying.

The discovery led Iraq's main Sunni clerical organization, the Committee of Muslim Scholars, to claim the dead were Sunni civilians, after charging in May that a former Shiite militia had carried out tit-for-tat killings of Sunnis.

Shiites have been a regular target of the relentless Sunni insurgency that killed almost 700 people last month.

In May, the committee accused a Shiite militia of killing Sunnis, amid a spate of attacks between the two communities, including some targeting religious leaders.

"It is the Badr Organization which is responsible for these killings. I take responsibility for what I am saying," said Committee spokesperson Hareth al-Dhari.

The Badr Organization replaced the officially disbanded militia of the Supreme Council of Islamic Revolution in Iraq, one of two leading political parties in the United Iraqi Alliance, which now dominates the government.

US Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick warned at the time that insurgents "are trying to split the society through sectarian killings."

Iraq's Shiites are struggling to bring the disempowered Sunni minority into the political process after it largely boycotted January's elections, including the drawing up of the country's new constitution. *AFP*

Iranian women still wondering when real reform will come

By Parisa Hafezi

TEHRAN—Bitter? Angry? Desperate? Mitra, an Iranian mother of two, is all those and more.

"How would you feel if someone took away your children?" the 34-year-old English teacher wept, clutching to her chest a teddy bear that belonged to one of her daughters.

A Tehran court last month granted custody of Mitra's two daughters, aged 8 and 10, to her ex-husband as part of their divorce settlement.

In Iran, where Islamic Sharia law is the bedrock of the legal system, divorced women can only keep their children up to the age of 7. After that, the father gets custody. Even this represents a recent, limited increase in a mother's rights; the age limit for boys used to be just 2 years.

Eight years after reformist cleric Mohammad Khatami swept presidential elections promising, among other things, improved legal rights for women in the Islamic state, many like Mitra are still wondering when real change will come.

"Iran is a man's paradise. The law, culture and tradition all back them," said Masoumeh, 30, who has unsuccessfully been trying to divorce her drug addict husband.

Elections take place on June 17 to elect a successor to Khatami, who is legally barred from standing for a third consecutive term.

Virtually all of the eight candidates, reformist and conservative alike, running in the vote have pledged to make renewed efforts to improve women's status in society.

But in a country where a woman can be elected to parliament but cannot leave the country without her husband's permission, the position of women epitomizes the Islamic state's constant struggle between religious values and civil rights, a struggle Khatami was unable to win.

"(Under Khatami) there have been subtle changes in the laws.

But we have a long way to go," said Farzaneh Dadgostar, a women's rights activist.

One example of limited progress is that men cannot divorce their wives without the ruling of a court at which a female legal observer is present, nor without paying alimony.

Previously they had an absolute right to divorce without producing any justification.

Since Khatami's first election win in 1997, women have entered previously male-only jobs such as taxi driving and the police.

Women fans have penetrated the once all-male preserves of soccer stadiums and the country's top rally driver is a 28-year-old woman.

Foreign visitors to Iran often focus on dress restrictions which oblige women to cover their heads and wear long, loose fitting clothes to hide their figure.

Under Khatami, enforcement of the dress code has relaxed and many women wear tight-fitting coats and bright scarves pushed back to reveal manes of often dyed hair. Once banned, lipstick and eyeshadow are now ubiquitous.

But Iranian women's rights activists play down the importance of dress restrictions.

Instead they complain of laws that openly discriminate against women. Monetary compensation for a woman's life is half that of a man's and her testimony in court is accorded half of the value.

Inheritance, divorce and custody rights also need to be revised to establish gender equality, activists say.

But while many leading Iranian clerics openly support their claims, those in charge of powerful state institutions like the Guardian Council, the constitutional watchdog, have blocked most attempts by Khatami's reformist allies to boost women's rights. *Reuters*

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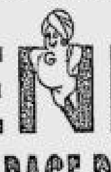

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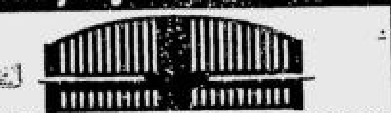

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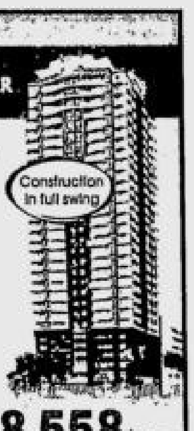

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Amber Favis has high hopes for her future. So much so that she left her home country, the Philippines, to study Engineering at Charles Darwin University in Darwin, Australia.

Amber, 25, gained a Bachelor of Civil Engineering at the University of the Philippines in Manila in 2002. She then spent 4 months working for the engineering construction company, VibraMetrics.

However, wanting to go further in her career, Amber began assessing her options. "Ultimately, I want to get into an engineering management role in the construction industry" she said.

"I was working for IDP when I found out about the Engineering courses at Charles Darwin University in Darwin, Australia."

"The courses sounded perfect."

Amber applied and was accepted for a scholarship position in the Masters of Engineering Management course at Charles Darwin University and began her studies in March this year.

"When I first arrived in Australia I knew no one," she said.

"I had no family and friends and I was unbelievably homesick, but everyone was so friendly and nice that after only a couple of days I felt completely settled in."

Amber lives on campus in North Flinders International House, where she has access to facilities such as computers,professional mentoring and support and lives with students from all over the world.

"There is such a mix of people living at North Flinders," she said.

"I now have friends from all over the world not only from Australia. So many international students come to study here, it's such a great experience."

Amber also has high praise for her lecturers and rates the support she has been given in her classes highly: "The support I have been given is fantastic."

"There is a lot of student-teacher interaction and support in Australia and everyone is enthusiastic and friendly.

"Students here aren't afraid to speak up, whereas in the Philippines the relationship between the student and teacher is more traditional. In Australia I can actually talk to my lecturer as an equal."

"Classes are more practical in Australia, compared to back home which is theory based. Here, you get to apply what you have learnt."

Head of the School of Engineering Dr Friso De Boer said that "Engineering at the Charles Darwin University is entering into an exciting phase of growth. Many large scale engineering projects are currently under way in the Northern Territory of Australia, underpinning the strong demand for engineering graduates from Charles Darwin University. We would like our international engineering students to become part of this exciting development."

There are many pathways and options into study at Charles Darwin University for prospective international students.

Director of International Office, Mr Dennis Meehan said: "Charles Darwin University is an excellent study destination for students from the Philippines. The University offers quality programs with excellent student facilities. There is a supportive local community that welcomes students and the tropical weather is an added bonus."

Amber will be available at the IDP office in Makati City on June 24 and 25 if you are interested in finding out more information about studying at Charles Darwin University. For a confidential interview and assessment with Amber please call Ely Cuplon at (02) 816-0755 local 110, 102 or 109 or email info@manila.idp.com

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RESIDENTS of New Delhi dance in a swimming pool at a water park to beat the summer heat June 12. With the onset of summer, many parts of India are facing heat wave conditions with the day's maximum temperature reaching to over 45 degree Celsius. REUTERS

No plan to close Guantanamo, US Vice President Cheney says

WASHINGTON—The US government has no plans to close its prison at Guantanamo Bay, Vice President Dick Cheney said in an interview airing Monday, as controversy about the "war on terror" detention camp flared anew over the latest revelation of detainee treatment.

"At present, there's no plan to close Gitmo. The president says we review all of our options on a continuous basis," Cheney told Fox News, using a slang term for the site.

"The impdrtant thing here to understand is that the people that are at Guantanamo are bad people. I mean, these are terrorists for the most part. These are people that were captured in the battlefield of Afghanistan or rounded up as part of the al-Qaida network," Cheney said.

"We've already screened the detainees there and released a number, sent them back to their home countries. But what's left is hard core," he added.

The prison on the island of Cuba holding some 540 terror suspects from 40 countries has been at the center of a political storm after a Newsweek magazine report—later retracted—that military interrogators at the camp flushed a Koran in a toilet to rattle Muslim inmates.

That report and others sparked angry protests in the Muslim world and condemnation from human rights groups. On May 25, Amnesty International called Guantanamo the "gulag of our times."

Sunday, Time Magazine published secret US interrogation logs describing how a top Saudi terror suspect was forcibly injected with fluids, grilled near military dogs and straddled by a female soldier, a contact particularly offensive to a Muslim.

Mohammed al-Qahtani was captured in Afghanistan in December 2001 and transported to Guantanamo, where he was interrogated from early November 2022 to early January 2003.

US authorities discovered he had been deported from Florida in August 2001 and believe he had sought entry to America to participate in the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, Time said.

Interrogators poured water over Qahtani, shaved his beard and head and forced him to stand for the US national anthem. He was also forced to strip nude and bark like a dog. Pictures of scantily clad women were also hung around his neck.

His condition deteriorated so badly at one point that he was examined by doctors. The logs also recount him saying he wanted to commit suicide.

In a statement released later Sunday, the Pentagon disputed none of this—and essentially confirmed the authenticity of what it called "the compromised classified interrogation log." *AFP*

Spain reeling from worst drought in over 60 years

ALICANTE, Spain—No sooner are you off the plane at Alicante's sun-blasted airport but the billboards leap out with enticing advertisements of palm-treed, seaside villas, swimming pools and emerald green golf courses.

But a half-hour hike inland and the scorched earth, near-dry reservoirs and stunted crops tell a different tale.

Although the millions of tourists visiting Spain's "costas" this summer may not realize it, much of the nation is parched and there's no oasis in sight. The driest winter and spring for more than 60 years have left reservoirs in some regions with 20 percent their normal capacity and crops across this European agricultural powerhouse nation wilting. Rivers have lost nearly a third of their volume.

"Right now we're at a critical point," said Juan Manuel Pascual Torres, 40, a melon and pepper farmer from the southeastern town of Elche. "If we don't get substantial rainfall soon we're in real trouble."

Farmers in his region have been told they can irrigate for a maximum of eight minutes a day. Torres doesn't rule out abandoning his crops to seek work in a shoe factory as he did during the 1990s when another prolonged drought hit Spain.

Losses nationally so far are estimated at some euro1.6 billion (US$ 1.95 billion) in failed crops and fodder for grazing animals. The Agricultural Ministry predicts grain production to be slashed 25 percent nationally this year with some southern and eastern regions suffering shortfalls of up to 50 percent.

Orange groves and vineyards, still reeling from last winter's frosts, promise a meager harvest in the fall.

"If it doesn't rain soon, I'm going to be some euro30,000 (US$38,000) in the red and I don't know how I'm going to handle that," said Joaquin Bretons, a 41-year-old father of two, gazing helplessly across his stunted chickpea and barley fields outside the southeastern town of Caudete. Stalks that should be standing a meter tall barely reach above their furrows.

A bitter argument is raging over how the drought should be handled.

One side, led by the conservative opposition Popular Party, calls for revival of a multibillion-euro transfer program that called for the water-richer northern areas to supply the center and south.

The governing Socialists, backed by most other parties and ecological groups, scrapped that plan as soon as they got into government last spring. They insist on a total rethink of water resources, based on desalination plants and water banks, with an emphasis on less squandering and more protection of aquifers and forests. *AP*

Blair meets Putin on mission to push debt write-off deal

NOVO-OGARYOVO, Russia—Britain's Tony Blair met Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday at the start of a mission to lay the groundwork for agreements on tackling African poverty and climate change at the Group of Eight summit.

The British prime minister is to meet four leaders in two days as he steps up preparations for the G8 gathering of the world's major industrialized nations at the luxury Gleneagles country hotel in Scotland from July 6-8.

He will be buoyed by an agreement by G8 finance ministers in London on Saturday to write off more than $40 billion of poor countries' debts.

But Blair was also likely to raise issues such as Western concerns over Russia's human rights record in his talks with Putin at the president's country residence west of Moscow.

The prime minister will also visit Germany, France and Luxembourg during his trip. British officials acknowledge the crisis in the European Union and the row over the EU budget and Britain's rebate will figure prominently in those discussions.

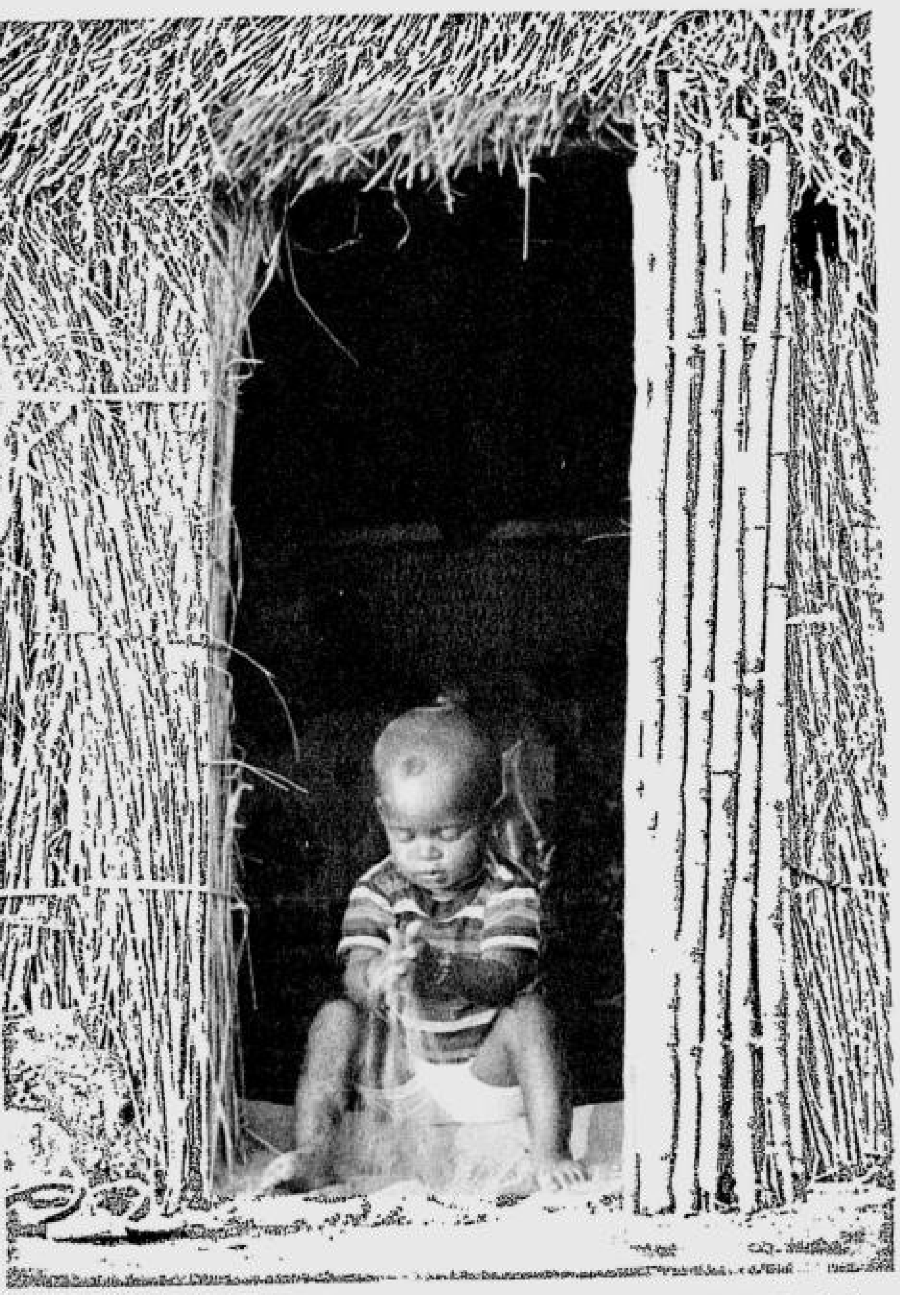
Britain believes Russia generally supports London's priorities for the G8 while it holds the presidency this year, the prime minister's spokesperson said.

In particular, London says Moscow can play a role in putting pressure on emerging economic powers such as China and India to sign up to targets on limiting carbon dioxide emissions which most scientists agree contribute to global warming.

Britain also believes Russia has concluded it must address the concerns of Western states and investors about human rights and the rule of law, highlighted by the controversial conviction on fraud charges of former oil tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky.

Blair's spokesperson said recent remarks by Putin on human rights had been encouraging and Britain was anxious to hear how the president planned to pursue the issue.

"We have not hidden the fact that we have had some concerns," he said. "We will not stop airing our concerns." *Reuters*



AN UNIDENTIFIED Fulani child plays with sand in Daruga, an outskirt of Abuja, Nigeria, June 12. World Bank chief Paul Wolfowitz, who was in the nation Sunday, praised a historic deal to cancel the foreign debt of some of the world's poorest nations and said he was hopeful debt relief was also on the way for Africa's biggest debtor, Nigeria. AP

Swazi king takes home 11th wife

MBABANE—The king of impoverished Swaziland has married a 20-year-old virgin, making her the monarch's 11th wife, a senior member of the royal household said on Monday.

King Mswati, sub-Saharan Africa's last absolute monarch, picked Nolichwa Ntentesa as his latest bride in 2002 at the tiny kingdom's annual Reed Dance ceremony, where thousands of bare-breasted maidens parade before the king.

After two years of complex wedding preparations, Ntentesa joined the royal household last week in a traditional ceremony where her face was painted with red ochre.

"LaNtentesa is now an inkhosikati (Swazi queen)," a senior member of the royal household said.

Mswati, 37, already has 10 wives and one fiancee, who was a Miss Teen Swaziland finalist.

Critics lambast Mswati for his lavish lifestyle and for taking many wives in a country where more than two thirds of his subjects live in abject poverty and 40 percent of adults live with HIV/AIDS.

Union-led protests against Mswati's absolute rule and extravagant spending on cars and palaces for his wives have largely fizzled in the deeply traditional country. *Reuters*

Security tightened at Russian stations after blast derails train

MOSCOW—A passenger train traveling from the rebel Caucasus republic of Chechnya to Moscow derailed after an explosion early on Sunday, in what Russian officials said was an act of terrorism that slightly injured about 15 people on board.

"This was a terrorist attack," Alexei Panteleyev, the deputy governor of the Moscow region, was quoted as saying by the RIA Novosti news agency hours after the incident, which coincided with the annual national independence day holiday in Russia.

There were no reported fatalities but five people, including a boy of 11 and a girl of 18 months, were hospitalized with injuries after five cars jumped the tracks near the town of Uzunovo about 150 kilometers southeast of Moscow, according to Russian media reports.

Another 40 passengers sought medical advice, a railways spokesperson said.

None of the reported injuries was life-threatening. No one has acknowledged responsibility for the blast.

The interior ministry later announced that security measures were to be tightened at Russian railway stations and on board trains, especially those coming from the south.

Measures already announced include the stationing of police officers with special training in profiling criminal suspects based on behavioral and physical traits.

The authorities have not said they are following any particular lead but the incident has raised fears that Chechen rebels seeking independence may target civilian transport as the summer migrations of millions of holiday-making Russians begin.

Deputy Prosecutor General Nikolai Savchenko said an investigation had been opened for suspected "terrorism and attempted murder of two or more people." There was no claim of responsibility for the attack, and police said they were searching the nearby area for the perpetrator.

Most of the injured were treated at the scene and released while the remaining passengers boarded another train and continued their journey to Moscow.

A spokesperson for the FSB security service said the train's driver reported seeing an explosion on the tracks ahead of him seconds before the train derailed. Two men were seen running off toward Uzonovo.

Investigators also found evidence, including electric cables wired to one of the rails and a location beside the tracks where the "supposed criminal" hid before detonating the blast, indicating that the blast was set off deliberately, she said. *AFP*

ILLUSTRATED PEOPLE

People with tattooed backs line up on the Zandvoort beach in the north-west of the Netherlands in an attempt to set a world record of the longest line of tattooed backs June 12. The line measured 49.8 meters and has been sent to the Guinness Book of Records for verification. REUTERS

Drink, drug abuse common among UK's doctors, nurses

LONDON—Drink and drug abuse is disconcertingly common among Britain's doctors and nurses, and there are few support structures to help address the problem, an investigation said Monday.

Over the past decade alone, 750 clinical and medical staff were formally disciplined for offenses involving alcohol or drugs at work, according to figures obtained by BBC television.

Dr. Michael Wilks, chair of the British Medical Association's ethics committee, told a BBC investigation that a sense of denial in the medical profession meant it was very hard for alcoholic doctors to be helped.

"With a fairly modest investment we could set up a program that could intervene effectively, train people to buy in the right treatment and set up a monitoring system," he said.

According to the television program—titled "Your Life in Their Boozy Hands"—being broadcast later Monday, the problem is compounded by a lack of clear guidelines over drinking by medical staff.

Whereas other professions such as airline pilots and train drivers were obliged to stick to strict rules about not drinking before shifts, virtually no hospitals gave similar advice to doctors, nurses and other staff.

A survey of a third of all Britain's hospital governing bodies showed that just one issued guidelines, telling staff they should not drink up to eight hours before they were on duty and not at all when on call. *AFP*

Kuwait names first woman minister

MUBARAK

KUWAIT — Kuwait named its first woman cabinet minister on Sunday, less than a month after giving women the vote, a key plank in its democratic reforms.

Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah announced rights activist Massouma al-Mubarak's appointment as planning minister and minister of state for administrative development affairs, the state news agency Kuna reported.

"Naming a Kuwaiti woman as a minister... is a special step we had longed to achieve," Sheikh Sabah said.

Kuwait, keeping a promise to carry out democratic reforms, made another breakthrough earlier this month when it appointed two women to its municipal council, the first women to take seats there.

In May, despite fierce resistance by Islamist and conservative MPs, parliament gave Kuwaiti women the right to vote and run in elections.

The legislation was passed too late for women to vote in municipal polls on June 2, so they will be unable to exercise their new right until 2007 parliamentary elections.

The suffrage bill was seen as a breakthrough in Kuwait, whose ally the United States has been pressing countries in the region to carry out democratic reforms.

Mubarak, a 57-year-old columnist and political science professor at Kuwait University, said she was honored to be the first woman minister in the Gulf Arab state's history.

"My appointment as the first Kuwaiti female minister indicates that Kuwaiti women have the capabilities that allow them to occupy various positions," she said.

Mubarak becomes the only member of the minority Shiite Muslim community in the 16-member Cabinet, filling a gap left by the resignation of the information minister several months ago.

She replaces Sheikh Ahmad al-Abdullah al-Sabah.

Qatar became the first country in the conservative Gulf Arab region to name a woman cabinet minister in 2003, and most other states in the area have since followed suit.

There have been women MPs or ministers for years in less conservative Middle Eastern nations such as Lebanon and Egypt.

Sheikh Ahmad retained his post as communications minister and was also given the health ministry portfolio.

Energy Minister Sheikh Ahmad al-Fahd al-Sabah had been interim health minister since Mohammad al-Jarallah resigned in April after parliament members called for a no-confidence vote, accusing him of squandering public funds and mismanagement. *Reuters*

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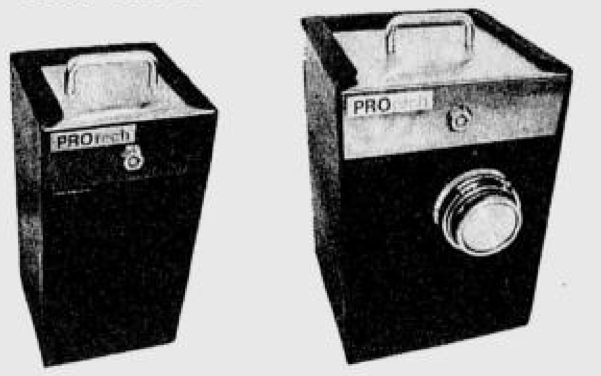

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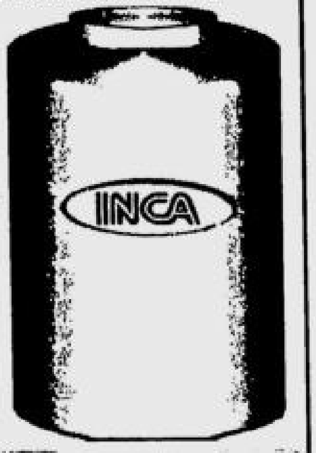

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ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Showbiz No. 1 (4:25PM)	Yu-Gi-Oh! (5:10PM)	Qpids (5:35PM)		TV Patrol World		Meteor Garden Full Edition	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Kampanerang Kuba	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Memories Of Bali	Bora			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		FBA (Reruns)				Sentro	Lizzie Mcguire	ABC Action Movies				Big News	The Probe Team Documentaries		ESPN Golf	
GMA 7	Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Glass Shoes	Tenjho Tenge	Shaman King	Flame Of Recca	Full House	24 Oras		Darna		Encantadia	Extra Challenge		All About Eve	Bahay Mo Ba 'To?			Saksi
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IBC 13		Lifestyle		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Shakey's V-League		Hope 1-Million All Filipino Open					IBC News Tonite	Up Close And Personal	
JackTV	Just For Laughs	Just For Laughs	Hip Hop Nation	WWE Bottomline		WWE Afterburn		X-Play	Banzai	Mad TV		Trigger Happy TV	Primetime Glick	South Park	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Stripperella	Family Guy	Wwe Heat	
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Yakkity Yak	Chalkzone	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Rugrats
MYX	MYX Firsts	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	My MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX	Star MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Pop MYX	Urban MYX	Top Of The Pops	Mobile MYX Top Picks	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Good Morning Miami	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Eliminidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	JKX	Simple Life	One Tree Hill		Who Wants To Marry My Dad 2		Entertainment Tonight Frost	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
Cinema One		Ina, Kapatid, Anak				The Sarah Balabagan Story				Anak ni Boy Negro		Hindi Ako Ander, Tanong Mo Kay Kumander							
Studio 23								Get Backers	Beyblade	Wazzup Wazzup	The Rebel Billionaire	Angel		Smallville		News Central	Oprah	WRC 2005: Turkey	The Men's Room
AXN		CSI: Miami		CSI: Miami		When Disasters Strike!		The Associates		Boomtown		Ripley's Believe It or Not		CSI NY (Season I)		The Amazing Race 7			
Star World	Frasier	The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	Charmed		Concerts On Star		Miss Match		Friends	Charmed
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
National Geographic		Air Crash Investigation		Seconds From Disaster		Interpol Investigates		Egypt Detectives: Mystery Of The First Egyptians	Africa From The Ground Up	Wow		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Air Crash Investigation		Seconds From Disaster	
Solar Sports									FIVB Montreux '05 Volley Masters				Sports Desk	NBA Greatest Game				Vintage NBA	
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fix	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Passion For Dessert	Second Look		Look For Less	Life & Style		Clean House		Road & Track	Back To Basics
HBO	Kart Racer			Moscow On The Hudson (4:10PM)				Virginia's Run (6:10PM)				Mona Lisa Smile				Carnivale 01: Milfay		Carnivale 02: After The Ball Is Over (10:55PM)	
Star Movies				Reversal Of Fortune				Man In The Mirror (5:50PM)			The Crocodile Hunter Collision Course			Air Bud: Spikes Back (A.K.A. Air Bud 5)			The Assignment		
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	Ed, Edd N Eddy	Static Shock	Codename: Kids Next Door	Duck Dodgers	Zoids Fuzors	Shaman King	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Johnny Bravo	Time Squad	Thundercats	Codename Kids Next Door	Duck Dodgers
ESPN					Tennis, Stella Artois C'ships Finals														
Disney Channel	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	So Little Time	Buzz Lightyear Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Recess: Taking The 5th Grade			So Little Time	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Princess of Thieves	
Cinemax			Cop & 1/2 (3:45PM)				Sleepstalker: The Sandman's Last Rites				Fierce Creatures			When Trumpets Fade			Saving Emily		
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss	Just Cause		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Who's The Boss	The Nanny	Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		Just Cause					Missing (10:35PM)		Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye
Discovery Channel		Building The Great Pyramid		Hidden History Of Rome		Anatomy Of A Snake Bite		Unsolved History		Rides		Human Discovery		Wild Discovery		Great Quakes		Science Mysteries	
MTV Philippines			Hangin Out at MTV		MTV Get Spotted		TRL		Ask Mayonnaise	MTV Dives		Carmen & Dave	Room Raiders	High School Stories	I Want A Famous Face	On Board at MTV	Whatever Things	VH1 Video Collection	
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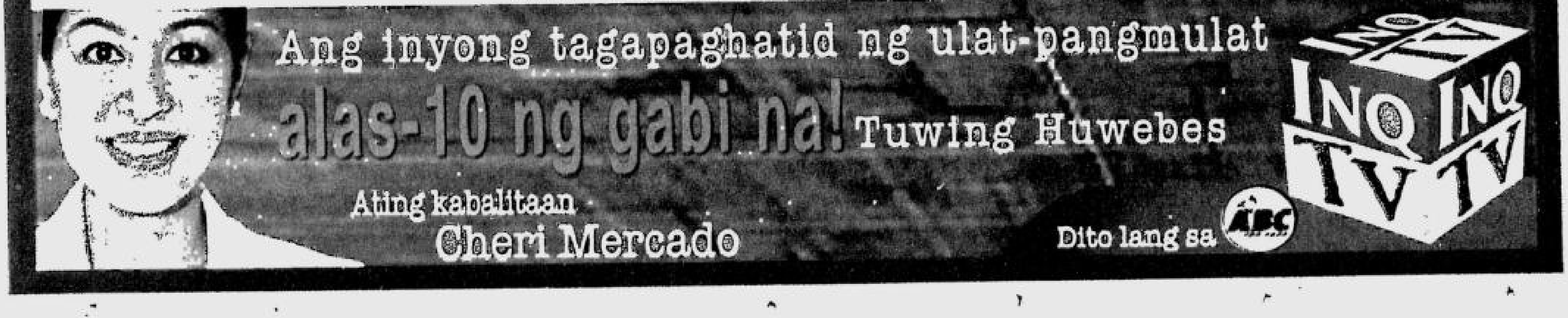
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EDITORIALS

Voice of reason

IT'S good that the voice of calm and sobriety prevailed last Saturday. Who knows, a demagogue's cry, an ugly incident could have sparked tumultuous and violent demonstrations, probably even something like the "Edsa Tres" of May 2001. But the voice of reason and prudence prevailed, and a potential powder keg was defused—at least for the time being.

Susan Roces, widow of Fernando Poe Jr., should be commended for her sober and sobering statements. A more mercurial, opportunistic personality could have roused the people to fury and could have led them in storming the gates of Malacañang. But Roces, who has always been a class act by herself, did nothing of the sort. She instead sounded a call for calmness in the midst of all the political turmoil.

Unlike some politicians who would exploit recent developments for their own advancement or their group's gain, she instead thought of the interest of the nation. She said, "No, we should not do a thing that would only add to our problems as a people." But she did not rule out the need to seek redress or to penalize the guilty, should the authenticity of the controversial tape and the identities of the people whose voices are recorded on it be established. She said, "Any step we will take will be in accordance with the law."

Justice. The law. Due process. This is all she is asking for: "Fair treatment under the law." Fair treatment for both the accused, if there will be one or some after the authenticity of the tape is established, and the aggrieved party. For the aggrieved party here, assuming that the tape is authentic, is not just the late actor or Roces or the opposition. It is the Filipino voters whose will as expressed in the 2004 presidential election has to be ascertained and upheld with finality.

Roces was realistic enough to realize that her husband could not be used by the opposition as some sort of modern-day El Cid. Legend has it that the body of El Cid (the military leader Rodrigo Diaz de Vivar) was strapped to his horse after he died. Caparisoned in shining armor, the dead El Cid then rode at the head of the Castillian forces that routed their Muslim enemies. "This is not about the elections. My candidate is dead already," Roces said. No, Poe is not going to be a Filipino "El Cid."

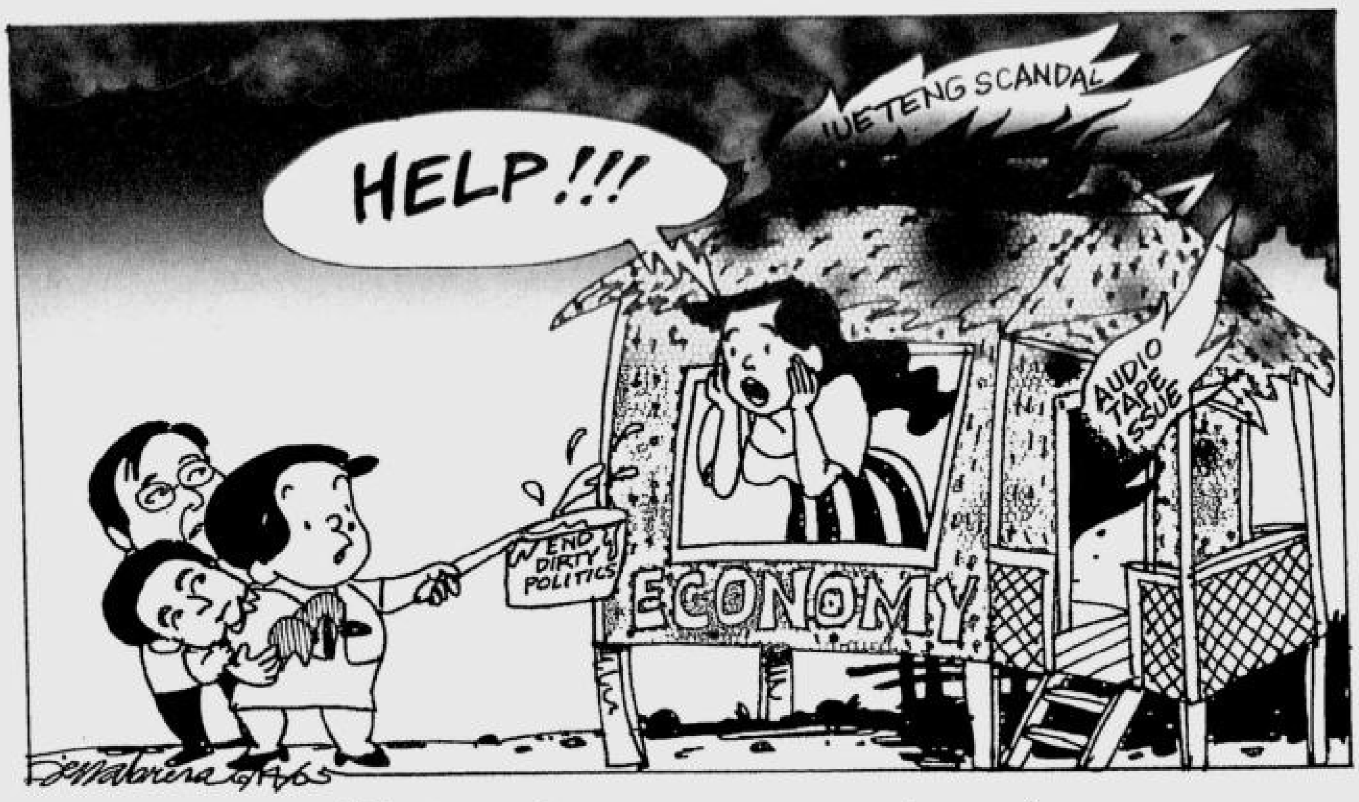
Roces, who has been considered by some political leaders as a possible rallying point for the opposition, also said, "We won't get anything out of this. This is not a desire to be in power. Power over what?" A more ambitious, power-hungry woman would have jumped at the opportunity to lead a move to destabilize the Arroyo administration and possibly become the power behind the throne, if not actually occupy it.

Legal options

Susan Roces has indicated that she wants a peaceful, lawful resolution of the issue. The first thing to be done, of course, is to establish the authenticity of the tape and identify the people whose voices are recorded in it. If the voices of President Macapagal-Arroyo and Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano are finally identified and authenticated, then the law should take its course. Both of them could be asked to resign. Of if they refuse to resign, they could be impeached.

But it is said that the opposition in both houses of Congress do not have the numbers to impeach and or even to hold an impeachment trial, in the case of the President. This could force the leaders of the anti-Arroyo force to consider other, extra-legal and extra-constitutional options, some of which are not pleasant to contemplate.

We hope, whatever happens this week or next, that the voice of reason and sobriety will prevail. There are legal, constitutional and peaceful options that can be availed of to resolve the issue. Roces has set a laudable example in dealing with the potentially explosive issue. Other leaders of the opposition should follow her example and think very carefully before saying or doing anything that could plunge the nation into a conflict from which it may take years to recover.



'Not a stone upon a stone'

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

IN RE-ELECTION, the President was gifted by abused but patient citizens with a rare second chance to repair the damage she inflicted on vital democratic institutions," we wrote after that bitter presidential vote. "That window of opportunity for reparation will not come again."

How did President Arroyo react to what an ancient writer called "a time of visitation"?

She reappointed to the Commission on Election "the patently partisan Manuel Barcelona and Virgilio Garcillano." Like Banquo's ghost, Garcillano has reappeared. If it's "Garci" on that controversial tape, "this man is not in the business of counting votes, he produces them," INQUIRER columnist Randy David notes.

That reappointment is one of many self-serving decisions. The President straddled the fence until it became clear citizens wouldn't swallow Eduardo Cojuangco's "Brat Pack" attempt to impeach Chief Justice Hilario Davide. She waffled on the coco levy. To court *masa* votes, she allowed Joseph Estrada, charged with a non-bailable offense, to gad about in Hong Kong. This was obstruction of justice, former Senate President Jovito Salonga wrote in Kilosbayan.

The window of opportunity for selfless leadership is closing rapidly for the President. "Four things never return," the old proverb says, "the sped arrow, the spoken word, wasted time and missed opportunity."

Can the President reverse course in the little time left? A fractured opposition, party-list allies and the communists are scrambling to slam it shut sooner.

The President is hobbled by "lack of credibility," says Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz. "It's very difficult...when the people don't believe you."

Atrophied integrity spawns disbelief that savages national life. People scoffed when Ferdinand Marcos lied without blinking. Cronies and alcohol leeched Joseph Estrada's credibility. President Macapagal-Arroyo stumbled into the same quagmire when she scrapped a pledge to retire. *"No hay que confiar al que roto su confianza,"* our Chabacano compatriots say. Don't trust those who've not kept their pledge.

Lack of credibility stokes unease with congressional probes. Often based on flimsy charges, many end inconclusively. Like Mona Lisa of the song, "They just lie there/ And they die there."

Senate Report 66 on "salvaging" (summary execution) overhangs Sen. Panfilo Lacson. He pledged, in a BBC interview, that he'd quit if wire-tapping charges were proven against him. But that fizzled, too.

The *jueteng* probe has been largely "hearsay standing on a layer of hearsay." Many witnesses trot in from police line-ups. "Public rage against Estrada was based on testimony from someone credible, Clarissa Ocampo" (of PCIBank who personally saw Erap sign as Jose Velarde), writes Sun-Star's Nini Cabaero. "But Sandra Cam is a confessed illegal gambling collector."

This vacuum in believability explains why the June 12 rallies wilted. And business leaders have taken full-page ads to warn that protracted inconclusive probes only roil waters for military buccaneers.

"Leaders are custodians of a nation's ideals, of the beliefs it cherishes, of its permanent hopes, of the faith which makes a nation out of a mere [group] of individuals," columnist Walter Lippman once wrote.

You won't find such custodians in an opposition "utterly unspoiled by failure." Their weaknesses are one of the President's remaining strengths.

Is the opposition's chairman emeritus Joseph Estrada? Or Jose Velarde? Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile of *dagdag-bawas* fame is scorned by Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel of whittled-down reputation. Sen. Edgardo Angara, Marcos legal tinsmith, can't stomach Panfilo Lacson, alumnus of the Marcos torture chamber, the Military Intelligence Security Group.

Critics like Caloocan Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez watch lest their protests be hijacked by those calling for another people's revolt or a military uprising. Another extra-constitutional exercise "is the last thing our country needs," he says.

But perception is the battleground. "Why, he resembles the First Gentleman," some remarked as grim-visaged ex-NBI official Samuel Ong flagged patently illegal tapes. "Your face, my thane, is as a book / Where men may read strange matters," says Macbeth's wife before Duncan's murder.

That reaction is visceral; it's not logical. But some bet that a public that gorges daily on noontime soaps can't tell the difference.

We've not reached the point of no return, Archbishop Cruz asserts. "One can begin to regain credibility."

Maybe. But photo ops and glad-handing will no longer substitute for deferred decisions. Only deeds will convince a conned people. "He who desires but acts not breeds pestilence," warns William Blake

To survive, the President must jump-start economic reforms to tamp down poverty and establish stability. She must empower citizens to beat off the wolves baying at her heels. And governance must be radically improved by curbing corruption and holding people accountable—even if they are relatives.

"I can trust my husband not to fall asleep on a public platform," Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher once said. "And he usually claps his hands at the right places."

If the President ensured that family members just dozed or clapped on cue, that'd be a small start. But there's no guarantee that will head off an impeachment bid.

"You did not recognize the time of visitation." the Teacher from Galilee said. So, in you, "not a stone will be left upon a stone."

Marcos and Estrada forgot that warning. Just before midnight has President Arroyo remembered—finally?

Alternatives

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I SAW Rep. Prospero Nograles on TV last Friday agonizing over our predicament and saying what he thought were pretty profound things. We have no choice but to stick it out with GMA, he said. If she goes, what do we have? Whom do we have? We have nothing.

I heard that thought repeated the rest of the day, as events turned swiftly, from Sammy Ong's disclosure about "the mother of all tapes" to the minor attempt at "people power" in San Carlos Seminary, and not just from GMA supporters. People who neither liked GMA nor Erap were asking the same questions: Where do we go from here? Whom do we replace GMA with?

The anxiety expressly had to do with Noli de Castro. If GMA goes, people said, De Castro gets foisted on us. We already know what happens when that happens. GMA tumbled into power after we ousted Erap, and look what we got.

Well, to begin with, the whole reasoning presumes things could get worse than now. How so?

When we ousted Erap, we had a president who had won by the biggest margin of anyone in history but who betrayed public trust by turning the country into a gangsters' paradise. Yes, a gangsters' paradise notwithstanding his protestations (Letters, June 9): How else call Atong Ang and all those unsavory characters that gathered at Malacañang at the witching hour drinking Blue Label while seeking blessings for their private rackets like Mafiosi subalterns from their don? But Erap could at least claim with iron-clad confidence that he was the president, he had been voted into power by most of the 80 million souls in this country.

Today, we have someone who has betrayed the public trust by turning the country into an even bigger gangsters' paradise, not least by taking over where Erap left off in *jueteng*. And this time (talk of Mafia) as a family affair. Someone who may not even claim to be the lawful president of this country. I've heard the tape myself, which quite incidentally goes on for hours. How can you doctor something that long whose whole thrust is a plot to cheat? At least when Erap cried during the height of adversity, "I will not step down, I am the duly elected president of this country," his foes could only shake their heads sadly and wonder at the tragedy of it. When GMA cries the same thing today, everyone can only laugh his head off and marvel at the travesty of it. Erap merely betrayed the public trust, GMA never had the public trust to begin with.

How in God's name can you get worse than that?

Of course, GMA's supporters keep repeating like a mantra the line that a person is innocent until proven guilty. But, to repeat, that principle merely means GMA may not go to jail until she is proven guilty. It does not mean she may continue to rule unless proven guilty. To this day, Erap has not been proven guilty, as witness his ongoing trial in court. And he languishes in jail while at that, unable to make bail, condemned to expunge all this country's leaders of their collective sins. But we removed him just the same as being unfit to rule. GMA is not less, she is more.

The prospect—or threat—of De Castro taking over is not as insurmountable as it sounds. The solution is snap elections. The financial objection to it, which is that in these dire times the country cannot afford another expensive electoral exercise, is ridiculous. It is far more cost-effective than keeping a leader who cannot lead, having lost every right to. In these dire times, what this country cannot afford is an expensive, no, extravagant, non-president. This country cannot survive five more years of misrule. Or more than misrule, mistaken rule.

There's more than moral force to justify snap elections, there's legal force, too. If it's true that GMA cheated during the last elections -- and I've always said that her ransacking of the public treasury to campaign patently constituted that, quite apart from the direct evidence offered by Ong's tape that she conspired with a Comelec official to doctor the results -- then the last presidential elections may be deemed null and void. I do not know what the implications of that would be for the other officials, I leave that to the legal eagles. But there is more than enough reason to void the contest for president at least.

And hold snap elections. De Castro may not automatically fill in GMA's shoes because of one thing: This isn't just a case of the president being mentally (or morally) incapacitated and deemed unfit (though heaven knows it's that, too) which, as decreed by the Constitution, should have the vice president taking over. This is a case of someone being found out to have usurped the presidency. The position is vacant, and only the will of the people, as signified by the vote, can fill it.

Finally, I don't know that it doesn't insult the 80 million souls in this country to suggest no one among them can possibly replace GMA. When at no time has the opposite been truer: Right now even the gardener in Malacañang can. The idea that things can always get worse, as shown in the past, may not deter us, it may only spur us. Whether things become better or worse does not lie in our stars, it lies in ourselves. It's what we do that makes an act of people power result in something better or worse. We pat ourselves on the back after an act of people power, crawl back to a life of mediocrity, leaving the inheritor of power to lift us up or screw as she or he pleases, we will get worse, and deserve it. But we summon even more reserves of energy after an act of people power, reminding ourselves people power is not the end but the means and the struggle has just begun, we may not leave it to our new leaders to do unto us as they do not do unto themselves but bend them to our will, we will get better.

And deserve it.

Pinoy drama

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

JUST as people were starting to relax a bit after a grueling weekend that swirled with rumors of destabilization that didn't materialize, this week had to commence with high drama *agad!* Arlene Doble, wife of Sgt. Vidal Doble of the Intelligence Services of the AFP, tearfully told Manila media that she left her home in Kidapawan City for Manila to "rescue" her husband who had been abducted. She claimed that he talked to her yesterday morning and followed it with several text messages begging her to help him escape from San Carlos Seminary where he was being held against his will. Arlene also claimed that her husband told her that the group of Samuel Ong was going to make him talk to the media, presumably about his role in the wiretapping of alleged conversations between President Arroyo and Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, which he supposedly did not want to do.

* * *

As this column was being written, the media were trying to reach Doble himself as well as the authorities of San Carlos Seminary to ascertain his wife's claims. This became urgent especially since the military said they would have to rescue Doble and "give him back to his wife" through legal means, hinting that force might be used, if necessary. The Ong group sought to discredit Doble's wife by suggesting that that she was no longer living with him. The inference was that she was a fake and *pakawala ng gobierno.*

* * *

As I followed this bizarre event, I could only shake my head at the "Pinoy-ness" of seeing a brave wife "rescuing" her husband. But even before the drama ended, I tended to regard Ms Doble as credible not just because she was in tears, but because government people are simply too inept and incompetent to think of such a ploy to discredit Ong. Anyway, all's well that ends well, and the Dobles were reunited later, thanks to the intercession of Msgr. Soc Villegas.

But the Doble affair has shot holes in the story of Samuel Ong, and he should give a good explanation for it. I must confess, though, that there's still the nagging thought that the episode could have been stage-managed by the government. But what keeps me from being convinced is its ineptitude in handling the opposition plot so far. It's hard to think it got smart all of a sudden.

The authorities of San Carlos Seminary should also realize that giving sanctuary to the former NBI deputy director has to come to an end. Once the warrant of arrest is served, Ong should be turned over to the lawful authorities who are duty bound to give him due process. If something bad happens to him, then the government should hang for it. But the Church should keep its hands off the case already.

* * *

Politicians and pundits have opined that the Macapagal administration has to establish the veracity of the wire-tapped tapes as its very legitimacy depends on this. But the pundits also opine that independent foreign agencies, not the NBI or the PNP, have to do establish its authenticity. But the problem is that at this stage, what foreign agency would agree to do the job, considering that there are now so many versions being passed around, and possibly all of them had been tampered?

* * *

It has been pointed out that if the middle class—a crucial component for any people power uprising—hasn't come out in support of Ong and last Saturday's march, it's because it feels that the political alternative to GMA is more unpalatable. They're correct. Among the alternatives are ex-President Joseph Estrada, who wants to finish his unfinished term, and Senators Aquilino Pimentel and Panfilo Lacson. Many people are spooked by them, saying *kung sila lang, titiisin na lang nila si Gloria.* The opposition must have realized this, for the latest rumor is that it has formed a five-member ruling council to take over in case GMA falls, among them retired generals Fortunato Abat and Renato de Villa, Susan Roces and Sen. Loi Estrada. Among them, only De Villa and Roces have credibility. I'm afraid Abat is not taken seriously, while Loi Estrada makes an attractive chair of the Senate committee on silence.

* * *

Amid all the depressing developments, there are a number of encouraging ones that make us feel good as Filipinos, even though they are not highlighted. At a recent dinner, I learned from former PCGG Commissioner Quentin Doromal that his former boss, ex-Senate President Jovito Salonga, has turned his incredible energy at 85 to help alleviate the problems of the Department of Education with regard to the poor marks of high school students in English, Math and Science. Salonga recently organized a group which started publishing last week a bi-weekly newsletter, called "Living News & Good Education," containing educational material on these subjects, for free distribution to principals, teachers and students of public high schools. In addition to the academic content, it seeks to "improve the moral and ethical values of high school students." Salonga's group has tapped some local governments around Metro Manila to fund the project, at a cost of P4 per copy of the newsletter. Initially the newsletter will be distributed in Luzon high schools, but eventually, it is hoped that it can also be distributed in the Visayas and Mindanao.

What makes it incredible is not the project itself but the organizer. Salonga, who turns 85 on June 22, topped the bar together with Sen. Jose Diokno in 1944 and is internationally respected and recognized as one of the country's legal luminaries. He holds a master's degree from Harvard and a doctorate in international law from Yale, topped the senatorial elections three times, ran for president in 1992 and was the first PCGG chief. But he does not think it is too trivial to help put together a fortnightly publication on grammar, math and science and values formation for our high school students. (*More on this project.*)

A bi-polar nation

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THANKS to Tita Swanie (Susan Roces-Poe to you non-showbiz fans), and no thanks to over-eager police officials, bleeding-heart priests and bishops, over-eager opposition senators, and the usual cast of leftist protesters and pro-Erap organizers, the standoff at San Carlos Seminary seems to have fizzled to a non-event.

Former NBI deputy director Samuel Ong and his sympathizers doubtless hoped thousands of enraged citizens would rush to his succor outside the seminary gates on Edsa, thereby triggering a fourth "People Power" uprising. What happened instead was…nothing. Ms Poe showed up at Ong's place of sanctuary to offer "a shoulder to cry on," an offer the nerve-wracked former NBI official took up with alacrity, but emerged from the meeting counseling "sobriety" and holding up little hope that the election results would be overturned.

One by one, the opposition senators who Friday evening had promised to stay by Ong's side and defend him "to the death" slunk away and all of a sudden held their counsel. True, a few urban poor and leftist protesters persisted in gathering in front of the seminary gates Sunday, with a frazzled Fr. Joe Dizon breaking liturgical decorum with a highly partisan homily. Otherwise, the rest of the country ignored Ong, perhaps preferring to take advantage of a three-day Independence Day weekend rather than disturb their short break with a foolish rescue operation.

Where were the courageous Filipinos who risked their lives and limousines to thwart the Marcos military in 1986? Where were the angry crowds summoned by earnest text messages in 2001? And don't tell me the Erap loyalists were all at the beach and couldn't be bothered to rush to Edsa!

* * *

"PEOPLE Power fatigue," some have termed it.

Others say the lack of popular response to the series of scandalous revelations can be traced to the absence of a sufficiently credible and charismatic figure who can take over the reins of the national leadership. Everyone else, from those who ran against President Arroyo in the last elections to popular senators, some belonging to the administration bloc, has somehow been tainted by the heated partisan atmosphere. Nobody can come to the table with clean hands.

My own take on recent events is that they took place during a period of depression in the national psyche. For too long, perhaps dating from Edsa Dos, we have been on an emotional and psychological high, the upper- and middle-classes feverish with expectations of genuine reform after successfully overthrowing a corrupt and lazy president, the masses whipped into a frenzy of hope that a candidate they truly loved and identified with would take over Malacañang. But in the past year or so, we have been lost in a fog of gloom, our view obscured by pessimism and doubt. The privileged class is sunk in disappointment and frustration, the poor still mourning and still suffering.

* * *

WE ARE a bi-polar nation, swinging between manic action and stunned gloom; sunny optimism and dark despair; rabid nationalism and self-hatred.

Sometimes, as with the first two Edsa revolts, our mania translates into glorious collective action that stuns the rest of the world. At other times, as with Edsa Tres and the Labor Day march on Malacañang, it degenerates into recklessness and mob rule, turning us into the laughingstock of our global neighborhood.

But alarming as our manic episodes can sometimes be, our periods of national depression are even more troubling. It paralyzes us into inaction, and every initiative—including the most explosive revelations—seems to be met with cynicism, distaste, disbelief and indifference. Such a state leads not only to inaction, but also to anger turned inward, to self-loathing and even self-destruction.

While there's Prozac and a host of neuro-chemicals to neutralize the wild mood swings of individuals having to cope with bi-polar symptoms, there's no similar chemical solution for an entire nation sunk in mental and emotional disorders.

Is national happiness—or even just stability—at all possible for a people eternally hoping for miracles and heroic leaders? Is transformation at all possible in a nation whose people have been betrayed, over and over again, by people they trust to lead them?

* * *

THE PRESIDENT seems to believe the current crisis can be weathered simply by ignoring the charges, which increasingly have been shown to have basis in fact. What she doesn't seem to realize is the level of disgust that's been rising even among her "natural" constituency: the middle class, the business sector, the Church.

Despite the political motivation of many of those creating or sponsoring the exposés, the President and members of her family cannot just brush off the accusations leveled against them. For one, none of them can truly invoke moral ascendancy or an unblemished personal history of ethical behavior and upholding standards of honor. And, especially with regard to the "Gloriagate" tapes, the transcripts of the exchanges only bear out the quality of the relationship between President Arroyo and her "favored" Comelec commissioner. Those who opposed Virgilio Garcillano's appointment had already denounced his spotty record and his reputation as a "fixer" of votes in Mindanao. It seems but scant comfort to have these charges validated by what transpires in the tapes.

The President can stop protecting her family and make them face the consequences of their actions. Or she can step down and pave the way for an orderly transition. But at this point either may already be too little, too late; no longer enough to lift us out of our collective depression.

The Candon exposition of 1892

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

FROM THE FIRST of December, legions of strangers from the neighboring provinces of La Union and Lepanto and from other towns of Ilocos appeared to have transferred en masse to Vigan. On Dec. 3, the ship San Antonio stopped over in San Fernando de La Union to pick up the guests who had been invited to the fiesta. On board was the Compania de Zarzuela Española which would be performing.

It had taken a month of preparations to inaugurate the Feria-Exposicion due to many last-minute details. Finally, it opened at 4:30 in the afternoon, the day chosen by Señor Solier, representative of the civil government, who rendered his discourse which was greeted with many *vivas* to Spain and to the King.

The fair and exposition, according to everyone, proved enlightening, surpassing all expectations, and was believed to be the best that so far all over the islands. The exhibit was composed of 30 structures in the form of towers with four sides, three of which were in the form of cages containing birds and animals of different types. In the projecting steps were the objects exhibited, crowned by a multitude of flags and steamers. Coconut palms, bonga, banana trees and other showy palms replaced columns in the corners.

All these structures were full of curious diverse objects and rich products from the Ilocos. You could see type 8 indigo, tobacco that could compete with the best leaf of Isabela, wheat on par with that from California, specially chosen potatoes from Benguet, rice of superior quality like the *mimis Ilocano* and other infinite varieties. There were textiles that had an ancient reputation for excellence, and indeed there was a precious blanket with the inscription "Bangar a la Expocicion de Candon" woven by Don Francisca Morales that later was awarded a silver medal. There were very fine hats of straw, stones from San Esteban, an ingenious tool to extract maguey invented by a native of Candon. Numerous books in Ilocano were on display from the collection of El Eco de Vigan to the last number of El Ilocano, but the most abundant were religious books and novenas.

A towering Tower of Eiffel made of bamboo caught people's attention. On its first floor a musical band played. Atop were five national flags and on the four corners were four chords of steamers. At night, these were full of lanterns, presenting a fantastic sight.

The diocesan bishop officiated at confirmations on the eve of the fair and celebrated a Pontifical Mass dedicated to the patron saint. That night, he presided over the well-lighted procession that wound its way through the *poblacion*. The bishop honored the fair with his visit to the exhibits and the wife of the *gobernadorcillo*, Sra. Doña Eufemia Gironella, offered him as a gift the beautiful blanket previously mentioned.

On the morning of the 8th after the Mass, the representative of the civil government and the jury composed of the parish priest, the fiscals, the provincial public works engineer and the *gobernadorcillo* met at the Casa Tribunal to prepare for the awarding of medals and prizes among the scholars and the exhibitors. Present were the *principalia* of the town and numerous ladies and *peninsulares*.

The program began with the gobernadorcillo, Don Lino Abaya, giving his speech, followed by the representative of the government, Señor Solier, who congratulated the townspeople for the unexpected success of the fair and especially the *gobernadorcillo*, who organized the event and saw to the details.

The program of festivities was followed by three days of fireworks that included the release of three balloons set aloft by the first-borns of the town. One of these balloons carried a sign saying, "The First-Borns of Candon for the 1st Feria Exposicion of the Province of Ilocos Sur."

The gold medal went to the parish priest of San Juan, La Union, for his novels and novenas in Ilocano. Don Emilio Maffey won another gold medal for his collection of 115 types of wood with their catalogue and examples of mining ore from Mancayan in Lepantto. Don Isabelo de los Reyes won for his works in Spanish, German, Ilocano, Tagalog and Italian and his collection of three years of El Ilocano corresponding to 1889, 1890 and 1891.

The silver medals were won by Dona Mena Crisologo for the sample of indigo produced in her factory weighing 113 *quintales* and Don Andres Rodriguez for seven samples of indigo from his harvest representing 50 *quintales*. Dona Eufemia Gironella won for her collection of 500 postage stamps and Done Primitivo Formoso for his *quiles, tartana* and *duquesita* made in his carriage shop.

Don Justo Claudio was awarded a silver medal for his *comedias* written in Ilocano and entitled, "Biag ni S. Hermenegildo" and "El Arrepentimiento." An an Aeta house, including two Aetas present during the exhibition and a descriptive report of their life and customs, won a medal for Don Placido Guirnaldo. Don Candido Abaya won for a collection of strainers, baskets, embroideries, whips and buttons made from carabao horn. Don Gregorio Abaya exhibited a live boa, various types of birds and working tools. Don Evaristo Gray won for his exhibit of various fabrics of silk and cotton produced locally. Various fabrics, tablecloths and napkins of cotton from the Ilocos were shown by Don Isabelo Abaya, while Don Sinforoso Bondad exhibited arms and artifacts of the Igorots.

* * *

Comments to bambiharper@yahoo.com

Leaping frogs

YOUNG BLOOD

JR Eusebio

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

FORREST Gump said, "Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're gonna get." Smart, but I disagree. When you have a box of chocolates, you dig in, and you know that it's gonna be sweet. It's gonna be filled with bad calories. It's gonna be damn addicting.

Maybe for some people who don't really like chocolates, this not the case. And maybe there are chocolates that are not sweet and not addicting at all. Yeah, but these are rare. What I'm trying to say is that when you have a box of chocolates, you have an idea what's inside. It cannot surprise you, unless a frog jumps out of it. But I bet that's not what Forrest Gump meant by his famous line.

What's all the analyzing for? Well, it's just that I'm crouched and ready to run at the starting line of something I don't really know much about. And when you find yourself in my situation, you begin to wonder what life is.

Of course, there is no answer. But that does not stop you from searching. And somehow during the search, you find something. Not the meaning of existence, but something relevant to it. Something you need to be able to go on.

Last summer, I met this girl from Estonia, Kristiina. We had both joined a home-stay program sponsored by the Ishikawa Prefecture in Japan, and we were assigned to the same family.

When I first met her, I didn't know we were going to be close friends. That's because I didn't believe two people from very different backgrounds, with very different beliefs, could get along very well. That's what I thought most of all when I saw her: we were different.

How could I think otherwise? She's from Europe. She's white, with blonde hair and a kind of blue-grayish-greenish eyes. I thought, hanging out was possible, but spending a lot of time together was out of the question. I'd probably bore her to death.

But I was wrong. That was the first frog that leaped out of my box of chocolates.

At first we didn't hang out much—just once a week maybe. Then before we knew it, we were together everyday. We would meet at some station, buy some booze and listen to music in some sidewalk. We would go to Roponggi to watch stupid Chinese movies. We would go to this club called Pure, dance, talk to other foreigners, and chill. I'd go to her place and we'd have a smoke in her veranda. We would have conversations about my God and her philosophical beliefs. We would go to these cheap shops to buy cheap clothes. We went to gym together, and took hip-hop lessons from this cute Japanese dance instructor. We made one coffee shop in Shibuya our own, just like the guys from "Friends," and we called it Perk. We used this kind of unusual English that we discovered in the book "Sho-gun," and we'd often use phrases like "fornicating monkey," "curb it" and "toothless old fart."

We spent even more time together when we started making a project called "04 TYO 05," a collection of photographs featuring the two of us as old-school gangsters. I decided it was going to be my final project at the photography school. She went to my school for studio shoots, and we went on location as well. We looked at prints together, made the selection together, the arrangement of the pictures together. I was at her place more than I was at my own apartment.

We were both supposed to go back to our own countries last March. She's doing her last year of Japanese studies at a university in Estonia, and I was going back to the Philippines to start work. But Tokyo was just so good to us that we both decided to stay for at least one more year.

We thought everything would work out fine when I found a job writing news for a cable channel, while she decided to take additional subjects, still as an exchange student. But the second frog leaped out the box.

In January, her professor told her via e-mail that spending two years in Japan would be ill-advised. She should go back to Estonia to finish her degree first, and then she could always go back to Japan.

He had a point. I mean what would a couple more subjects mean to her studies? They would just be a waste of time and money. And her main purpose for staying was not to study anyway, but to enjoy some more, which was just so childish.

We accepted her professor's advice. But then we had a game plan. We were going to turn her remaining days in Japan into a blast. I skipped my part-time job often. We continued with all the things we were doing before, and did new ones, like going to Odaiba to play at an amusement center with virtual skateboards and stuff, playing Filipino card games, going to a temple in Asakusa, having movie nights at my place or hers.

We backpacked for five days in Kansai, going to Kyoto, Nara and Hyogo, visiting temples, castles, parks, feeding deer, drinking wine, walking day and night. It was the best trip ever.

Last week, we said our goodbye at Narita Airport in Tokyo. We didn't cry, but I knew the following days would be difficult. I would miss her. She had become more than a friend; she was like a twin sister. We fought, we pissed each other off, and I'd turn violent and smack her in the head sometimes.

It's amazing how a person you've only been with for a little over eight months can mean more to you than a person who have been with you for almost forever. Amazing, the people you meet in a lifetime. Amazing, the things that happen, which if they didn't you wouldn't have thought possible. This life is amazing and so are the frogs that leap out of it, which could kill you if you were weak of heart.

She's back on her side of the earth and I'm back in mine. Sometimes it's as if she was just a dream, but I look at all the pictures we've got, all the pictures I took of our times together, and I know my experiences were for real.

I start work on Friday. Life will again be what it used to be. But I expect that someday soon, frogs will leap out again to break normalcy. I might even find myself in Estonia.

JR Eusebio, 24, works with a Filipino cable channel.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

If you are sending your contributions by e-mail, please address it to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address and information about your age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with.

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An inspiring story amid news about gloom

EVERY DAY when you read the newspapers, the Philippine Daily Inquirer included, you find their pages dominated by stories on *jueteng*, payolas, corruption, crime, politicking, scandals, etc. It seems nothing is newsworthy unless it falls under the above categories. This leaves us, readers, with a sense of despair and gloom, and we begin to ask ourselves: Is there hope for our country?

The other question we ask is: Is media being responsible, feeding us a daily fare of gloom and doom and nothing much else?

But, perhaps, there is hope. The INQUIRER, out of the blue, front-paged in its June 8 issue an inspiring and heartwarming story about an aged Jesuit priest in Davao, who has been running a feeding program since 2002 to enable poor students, who otherwise could eat only once a day, to have at least a second meal for the day. His compassion and the compassionate response he got from voluntary contributors to his meal program warmed the cockles of my heart and, I am sure, also the hearts of many other people who read the article. The story made my day. The Philippines is not such a bad place, after all, despite the gloom-and-doom news dominating the dailies.

In furtherance of the PDI motto, "Balanced News, Fearless Views," and the moral responsibility of the media to the public, I suggest that that PDI publish every day an inspiring story on your front page. There is no lack of heroic characters in the Philippine landscape for this. And their stories need to be told to inspire us as a nation and give us a sense of direction which both our government and, to some extent, our Church have not given. I request that the INQUIRER give the same importance to their stories as you do to the scandals, corruption and shenanigans of politicians and public officials.

Perhaps, by their example, we will learn to do and be the best in our position in life, and to be less dependent on government and its agencies for our well-being. Once this happens, then, indeed, this nation can be great—again.

—SAMUEL J. YAP
118 Granada,
San Antonio Heights
Sto. Tomas, Batangas

Yes, we always look for positive stories. Please look especially at our "positive Sunday" issues.—Ed.

Singing the national anthem with pride

HOW we sing our national anthem will not matter unless we free ourselves from the bondage of poverty. Most Filipinos will only see the greatness of our nation if there is food on their tables; there is discipline on the road; and public servants truly care for people, and everything is in order. Here in Canada, the citizens sing "O Canada" in many different tunes—in English or in French. However they sing it, they sing it with dignity and pride because they know they are singing their anthem not because of the music or the tune, but because they are proud of how Canada, a relatively young nation, has evolved into one of the most prosperous countries in the world.

—ALFREDO MONTILLA
alfredo.montilla@tcdsb.org

Audit the coco levy funds

THE AKBAYAN Peasant Caucus is alarmed by the state of affairs in relation to the sequestered coconut levy funds. We fear that the hard-earned and hard-fought victories that the coconut farmers have won in the Sandiganbayan and the Supreme Court will come to naught if the government and the millions of coconut farmers will not be vigilant and will not act decisively in response to developments involving the coco levy funds

The recent exposés about the alleged misuse and abuse of the funds, which are held in trust by the government on behalf of the coconut farmers, have been subject to inquiries by the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Last May 18, acting on House Resolution 736 authored by Akbayan Party-list Reps. Loretta Ann Rosales, Mario Joyo Aguja, Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel, together with Sorsogon Rep. Jose Solis, the House Committee on Good Government and the Committee on Agriculture held a joint meeting on the issues that have been raised in relation to the management of the coco levy funds.

The Akbayan Peasant Caucus said that the alleged P8.4-billion Agusan Coco project is just a tip of the iceberg. The Akbayan Peasant Caucus said that after the reports on the Agusan project and the subsequent exposé by former PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac on the misuse of coco levy funds by CIIF president Rolando Golez, "a thorough and categorical audit of the coco levy fund should be forthcoming."

We decry the lack of transparency in the safekeeping and management of the coco levy funds. We urge Congress to include in its investigation the high possibility that, even without the final Supreme Court decision on the issues, deals are already being done to compromise the funds. Is the deliberate lack of transparency on the coco levy funds indeed intended to set the stage for a compromise between the Arroyo administration and Danding Cojuangco?

We in the Akbayan Peasant Caucus believe that all the recent events involving the coco levy funds call for an independent audit of the funds to safeguard the interests of the coconut farmers who bore the levy burden during the Marcos dictatorship and own the estimated P100-billion coco levy funds. We also call on the Sandiganbayan and the Supreme Court to expedite the final resolution of the coco levy cases that are under their respective jurisdictions, lest the impact of their decisions be overtaken by the machinations and maneuvers of the elite who have stolen the funds.

—MYLENE CLAMOR, secretariat,
Akbayan Peasant Caucus,
101 Matahimik St.,
Teachers' Village, Quezon City

Right colors and materials for flag

MANUEL Quezon III should check with the National Historical Institute the color references used in the manufacture of the Philippine flag. I remember that when I was the head of the Monuments and Heraldry Division, obtaining a copy of the color reference book was a priority.

Also, before flag manufacturers are allowed to supply flags to the government (most buyers of flags are government entities, like schools and the military), they are required under NHI regulations to submit samples of their finished flag. NHI will examine and mark their stamp of approval on the flag. Rejected flag samples (not conforming to the flag specifications) are returned to the flag manufacturers.

All flag manufacturers are informed and shown the sample of the color they should follow in the manufacture of flags. But many of them insist on using substandard materials for obvious reasons. To reduce the purchase cost of materials for making flags, I suggested then to flag manufacturers that they pool their resources and nominate a textile manufacturer which could produce and supply them the proper and necessary textile in bulk, instead of by yards or meters. But flag manufacturers do not want this arrangement because they think that using the same kind of materials will erase competition.

—RENATO PERDON
former chief,
Monuments and Heraldry Division, NHI
renperdoni@hotmail.com

English will destroy Philippine society

IN MY opinion, the proposal in Congress to adopt the English language as the medium of instruction in the educational system of this country is a move by pseudo-nationalistic lawmakers that is calculated to destroy Philippine society. This is a very serious and critical concern! I am calling all genuine Filipinos—lawmakers, government officials and the entire nation—to fight for ourselves, for our country, for our language. Our country is not yet strong. We are not yet truly a nation. We are still in the process of nation-building. Our national language is one of the most important elements of nation-building. We should be Filipinos *sa isip, sa salita at sa gawa* (in thought, word and deed). We should uphold this statement.

Those advocating the adoption of the English language as our medium of instruction may not know it, but they are foolishly moving the country to a dangerous pit. They must be made to know and fully understand all the implications this matter may bring today and in the future. I just pray that they are forgiven for they do not know what they are doing. I am just wondering, did their professor in college fail to teach them "how powerful language is or how important it is?" Please don't pass and perpetuate to the future generations Filipinos the miseducation that you got in your time. *Parang awa na ninyo*! (Have pity!)

—JONATHAN CAPULAS BALSAMO
president,
PUP History Society,
PUP Sta. Mesa, Manila

DA moving to increase rice yield

MY sincere gratitude to the INQUIRER and Jessica Reyes-Cantos for her letter titled "Flawed rice policy and hunger. (PDI, 5/16/05)

The government recognizes the prevalence of hunger, especially in the rural areas, where food production is carried out.

To resolve this, the Department of Agriculture has intensified the implementation of Ginintuang Masaganang Ani (GMA) on target commodities, in our case the GMA Rice Program. Our program aims to attain 15.12 mt of palay this year and to steadily increase yield by 5 percent annually.

Planting of hybrid rice is being pushed by the program, as it has proven to attain higher yields without increasing land area, thus enhancing productivity and increasing farmer income.

To encourage the planting of hybrid rice, the program gives subsidy for seeds and greater access to credit. It also conducts technical briefings and, in cooperation with private seed companies and local government units, establishes technology demonstration areas.

The program, however, also has interventions for inbred rice farmers.

The Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) teaches farmers to enhance the productivity of rice farms through the planting of vegetables and other cash crops.

Moreover, balanced fertilization strategies with the aid of Leaf Color Chart (LCC) and Minus-One Element Technique (MOET) were developed to increase efficient use of fertilizers and to reduce production cost attributed to fertilization.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies were developed to reduce pesticide application and promote ecological soundness in an agroecosystem.

Credit assistance is also available from the Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corp. (Quedancor) both for hybrid and inbred rice farmers.

Thus, while the program focuses on hybrid rice farmers, it also looks after the interests of farmers planting inbred and home-saved seeds.

I thank you for giving me the opportunity to shed light on this matter. The GMA Rice Program looks forward to continue working with the media in upholding farmer interest and in strengthening the agriculture sector.

—FRISCO M. MALABANAN, director,
GMA Rice Program,
Department of Agriculture,
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

GSIS open to non-government audit

WE are writing in reaction to the column of Ramon J. Farolan (PDI, 6/05/05), which, in essence, put in doubt the claim of P35-billion profit earned by the Government Service Insurance System.

Firstly, the GSIS posted a net income of P36.5 billion in 2004, not just P35 billion. And, like all government entities, the GSIS is audited by the Commission on Audit. Hence, if there are irregularities in our figures, COA will definitely uncover them. We are confident, however, that like in previous years, the COA will validate our earnings.

Farolan also suggested that a non-government firm audit the GSIS. We certainly welcome this proposal to erase whatever doubts Farolan has created in the minds of his readers.

Farolan likewise questioned why the GSIS cut down the pension benefits for widows and widowers. This is definitely wrong. In fact, the GSIS has removed the ceiling on pensions, so that a GSIS pensioner now receives up to 90 percent of the average monthly compensation that he or she was getting when he or she was still employed. And the GSIS makes it a point to increase pensions annually to help our members in their twilight years. As a matter of fact, the GSIS paid out P29.1 billion in claims and benefits last year, the highest in the history of the state pension fund.

As Farolan himself said it, corruption in the GSIS is just a perception. The P36.5 billion GSIS net income and the P29.1 billion in benefits paid to our members are facts, backed up by solid proof that can withstand the closest scrutiny.

The perception of corruption in the GSIS is perhaps due to the fact that the reforms initiated by its president and general manager, Winston Garcia, have made it difficult for racketeers to operate with impunity at the GSIS. He has instituted safeguards that have stemmed the abuses and financial leakages in the system. Unlike in the past, when the GSIS was very cavalier towards the disposition of its funds, Garcia's prudent fiscal management has enabled the GSIS to increase its revenues and trim down expenses, resulting in record-breaking profitability.

—ELLA E. VALENCERINA, vice president,
Public Affairs Office, GSIS

Recycled politicians and cost of recovering ill-gotten wealth

LOOK how mature were the voters of France in saying "No" to what they believed was contrary to their national interest.

Whereas, we, the people of the Philippines, elect the so-called recycled politicians to allow them to create confusion and disarray in a nation badly in need of unity. For example, in the impeachment trial of Joseph Estrada, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel was quiet and meek as a dove (probably because of the impending elections then). But now he gets to be factious, pretending to be a knight in shining armor, the guardian of democracy.

Why? And why can't the government be more decisive. If Estrada is guilty, then let him be sentenced accordingly. If not, let him go. This would be better than spending millions of pesos of taxpayers' money to keep him comfortable in jail. Other suspects more innocent than Estrada are languishing in jail under subhuman conditions. Where is justice here?

How much money has the government recovered from Estrada? From the Marcoses? How much money has the government spent in filing and pursuing all the cases against these people? Are we ahead or are we in the losing end whether in monetary terms or in the arena of justice? How come we don't have auditing reports regarding these expenditures? The nation needs to know.

The leaders of this nation have a fiduciary relationship with the people. They are therefore accountable to them in the highest degree.

—HENRY FERNANDEZ
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InqBox

What do you think should be done to some top government and police officials accused of receiving huge amounts of jueteng money?

if guilty of receiving jueteng money, top government officials & military officials shud be put before a firing squad.
—Felix Mojica, 51, *Sipalay Cty*

Bring dem to trial & if found guilty line dem up at Luneta & allow d angry mob to throw rotten tomatoes at dem.
—Mics Obles, 29, *Baguio City*

Let them suffer through their own conscience and karma. On our part, wag na tayo umasa sa kanila.
—simon Ibarra, *qc*

walang pipiyok, kung walang luge sa hatian. Advice ko nalang, share it with us! Join them if u cant beat them db!
—mary jox soria, 23, *digos city*

they shud be put on preventive suspension and be investigated Asap.
—yolanda quero, 34, *agoo la union*

We let d justice system do its job. what we Filipinos shud do is 2 pray harder & help d poor uplift their plight.
—monica concepcion jesena, 24, *davao city*

nothing can be done. Lawmakers, enforcers are just playtoys. The factory shud be d one burned to fire. Para mawala ang ugat!
—mary jox soria, 23, *digos city*

If proven guilty, of course they shld be jailed. To only relieve dem of their post would be an insult (to Filipinos).
—gayda haralam, 28, *baguio*

...The axe of justice must fall and lightning from heaven must strike on them.
—Noel madrid, *sta.maria, bulacan*

Given the opportunity, I will: A) Work abroad temporarily; B) Migrate abroad; or C) Remain in the Philippines permanently. Why?

A) because we can't deny the fact that working abroad can bring dollars to the country, and food to the table
—nanie de castro, 16, *parañaque*

b) because no one in their right mind would work like a horse, get paid low, on a delayed basis, and becomes heavily indebted.
—Honey, 30, *Manila*

Pano na ang Pinas pag nag-migrate lahat ng Pinoy?

i will remain in d Phils. permanently kasi dapat muna natin paunlarin ang sariling atin bago yung iba kasi kawawa yung susunod satin
—josephine esguerra, 26, bacoor, cavite

I wil migrate 2 another country bec i dont see anything gud hir anymore. Kawawa mga tao,
—cris bacani, 36, *las piñas*

migrate permanently 2 other country that provide egual opportunity & protect d interest of its people, not of d politicians
—gaspar melchor, 28, *Legaspi City*

a. Work abroad temporarily bec. I only want 2 earn enough 2 live comfortably in my country
—Jennilyn Zulueta, 37, *san fernando city*

Work abroad temp wher i can earn money faster then come back home & start own business. That way I won't just help myself but others 2.
—armando damasco, 39, *manila*

b)Migrate. With our present leaders, hopeless na ang bayan tapos mga anak pa nila ang papalit sa kanila, eh paano na?
—ramon g. lukban, 48, *q.c.*

I'll remain in the Phils. coz i think there's hope & I'd do my share in realizing that hope.
—katy mar, 23, *legazpi*

a)work abroad temporarily, Kasi kahit gaano pa kalaki ang kita ko sa ibang bansa, PILIPINO parin ako. Hindi nito maiaalis, tatak ko.
—Divine Grace R. De Guzman, 15, *Zamboanga City*

I will Remain in the Philipines permanently because our country is hopeless, down with the Arroyo government.
—Bernard Dujali, *Panabo City*

work abroad temporarily. Reklamo tayo ng reklamo abt our failing economy tapos tatakas ka lang? Do sumthing 2 bring into our country.
—simon Ibarra, *qc*

work abroad temporarily. bcoz abroad u can save a lot of money from ur salary, compared2 hir in philippines.
—juhoney g. empuerto, 24, *cagayan de oro city*

a.hit the pot (abroad) and spill the gold here.
—tita orbecido-tan, 38, *isabela city*

A:save a lot abroad & spend it here in d phils. mas madami ako mabili sa money ko.
—Alira Magno, 18, *Davao*

given d opportunity, I'll migrate 2anadr country bcoz no matter how hard i try 2make dis country a better one, i wont succeed.
—blanche mondragon, 33, *silay*

Work abroad temporarily, cost of living ryt now is so high yet salaries are 2 low to cope with daily subsistence
—ging/imelda agnes tubeo, 39, *malaybalay city*

b) bcoz of d many opportunities u can find if you'll just strive harder and surely improve ur economic status.
—Sherill Ybañez, 29, *general santos city*

i wil work abroad temporarily! why let it pass? it seldom knocks at our door, so grab it while its stil hottah hottah!
—tes obana, 24, *polangui*

i will work abroad temporarily pra makapag ipon at makapagpatayo ng sariling negosyo para makagtulong sa mga mahihirap at walang trabaho.
—josephine esguerra, 26, *bacoor, cavite*

C) Remain in the Phils., becuz i believe der is still hOpe in our country despite all dats happening, and i want 2 prove all d naysayers wrOng.
—luke eduard ensong, *bayawan city*

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Govern from Cebu, GMA urged

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—"Come home to Cebu and transfer the Malacañang to Cebu."

Former Gov. Pablo Garcia extended this invitation to embattled President Macapagal-Arroyo during a "unity rally" yesterday afternoon at the Capitol grounds.

Garcia pointed out that the crowd of 10,000, as well as the attendance of most local officials, only showed that Ms Arroyo still enjoyed the support and commitment of the Cebuanos.

He recalled that Ms Arroyo took her oath as the country's 14th president on June 30, 2004 on the Capitol grounds because the Cebuanos gave her a winning majority of over one million votes.

Garcia, father of incumbent Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia, said the Cebuanos should not allow the opposition in Manila to succeed in their plan to bring down the Arroyo administration so the President could fulfill her promise to serve the people until 2010.

"This is what I will tell them, if you people in Manila will continue to (rally against the President), Madam President, you come to Cebu, transfer Malacañang to Cebu City," said Garcia, who also served as three-term congressman.

"If you people in Manila will not stop demonstrating (against Ms Arroyo), we will invite the President to Cebu, come home to Cebu, Madam President. Cebu is your home. We Cebuanos love you, We Cebuanos will protect you here in Cebu," he added.

Among those who attended the two-hour rally were three congressmen, 42 of the 52 town and city mayors, board members, vice mayors, municipal and city councilors and barangay chairs.

Even elected officials from the far-flung towns, like Daanbantayan, Bantayan and Santander, came to show their support for the President.

Mayors Tomas Osmeña of Cebu, Socrates Fernandez of Talisay, Thadeo Ouano of Mandaue, and Ramon Nito Durano III of Danao were also at the rally but did not deliver any speech.

Governor Garcia, for her part, echoed her father's message, saying the Cebuanos would not allow those involved in the alleged destabilization plot to succeed in their plan to oust the President.

"Cebu is solidly behind the President. We are not the No. 1 province in the country for nothing, Cebu is No. 1 because we Cebuanos are one," she said.

Aside from the two Garcias, Representatives Raul del Mar of Cebu City's North District, Antonio Cuenco of the South District and Red Durano VI of Cebu's fifth district delivered separate speeches.

Woman pleads for justice for daughter

By Anselmo Roque
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—A 46-year-old woman from Balanga City has pleaded to authorities to arrest the murderer of her 19-year-old daughter here.

Leonila de la Cruz said her daughter, Aileen Krista, 19, was found dead on Friday morning on a vacant lot with 22 stab wounds in different parts of the body.

She said Aileen was influenced by the family to enroll at the Central Luzon State University here to pursue a course in veterinary medicine.

Aileen was in third year of the four-year Bachelor of Science in Animal Husbandry (BSAH), a required course before the final two years leading to the Doctor of Veterinary Science and Medicine.

An honor student when she graduated in high school in Bataan, Aileen was a dean's lister at the CLSU. She pursued the course in keeping with the desire of her father, who finished a BSAH course in a Metro Manila university. Her father works in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates.

"*Tulungan po ninyo kaming mabigyan ng katarungan ang aking anak* (Please help us give justice to the death of our daughter)," Leonila said in between sobs as she stood in vigil near the coffin of her daughter.

"*Makonsensiya ka naman sana para sumuko ka na at aminin ang pagkakapatay mo sa aming anak* (I wish your conscience will bother you so that you will surrender and own up the murder)."

Aileen was the eldest and only girl among four children of the De la Cruz couple.

Supt. Loreto Espineli, police chief here, said Aileen was stabbed with an ice pick seven times in the neck, five in the chest, and 10 in the back.

There was not much struggle as observed in the crime scene on a wooded lot at the Tobiasville Subdivision in Barangay Bantug, he said.

Her cell phone and wallet were missing.

Espineli said Aileen went out of the house at 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, reportedly to buy e-load for her cell phone. At the time, she was just escorted home by her classmates after attending a meeting of their Rodeo Club on campus, 300 meters from her boarding house.

SCARE CROW
Juana Luis, a 78-year-old grandmother, guards a terraced rice field in Ludon, Tadian in the Cordillera, using a slingshot to scare away birds.
AFP

Korean's disappearance baffles Cavite cops

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Police are still clueless over the sudden disappearance of a Korean businessman in Cavite, who has been reported missing since Friday.

Senior Supt. Aaron Fidel, intelligence chief of the Calabarzon police, said yesterday that Gwak Nho Hak, 53, a Korean residing at Bobabilla Compound, Tanza, Cavite, was reported missing on the day he was supposed to meet his Korean business partners in Trece Martires City.

Fidel said the disappearance of Gwak was first reported by his live-in partner, identified as Shirley Tonibio, 27, to the Tanza police on Friday night.

He said Tonibio told police that a few hours before the Korean went missing, she heard the victim talking with somebody on his mobile phone in Korean.

Tonibio disclosed that the victim told her that he was to meet with his business partners later that day.

"Before his disappearance, Mr. Gwak brought (Tinobio) to her school in Rosàrio town and dropped her mother in nearby Noveleta town on board his Honda car (WLE-855). That was the last time they saw him alive," Fidel said.

At around 5 p.m., Tonibio supposedly called up the victim and asked him if he could fetch her from school.

But the victim told her that he was still busy dealing with his Korean friends, Fidel said.

Three hours after, Tonibio again phoned the victim, but his cell phone was turned off. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Women warned of illegal recruiters

COTABATO CITY—The Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration (OWWA) yesterday warned women applicants for overseas employment against what it said was the proliferation of illegal recruiters in Central Mindanao.

Abdulgani Umag, OWWA director, said on Friday that unsuspecting victims often end up being sexually abused or becoming unpaid maids in the Metro Manila stations of their recruiters.

He said his office often received complaints from parents and husbands about impregnated or maltreated women recruits who were brought to Metro Manila. He did not provide any figures.

Umag advised applicants to always seek second opinion from the OWWA on job placements that are, in most cases, relayed to them by relatives or mere acquaintances.

A check with the OWWA, Umag said, could determine whether people inducing them with job promises were authorized by law. *Nash B. Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Girl dies of meningo in Pampanga

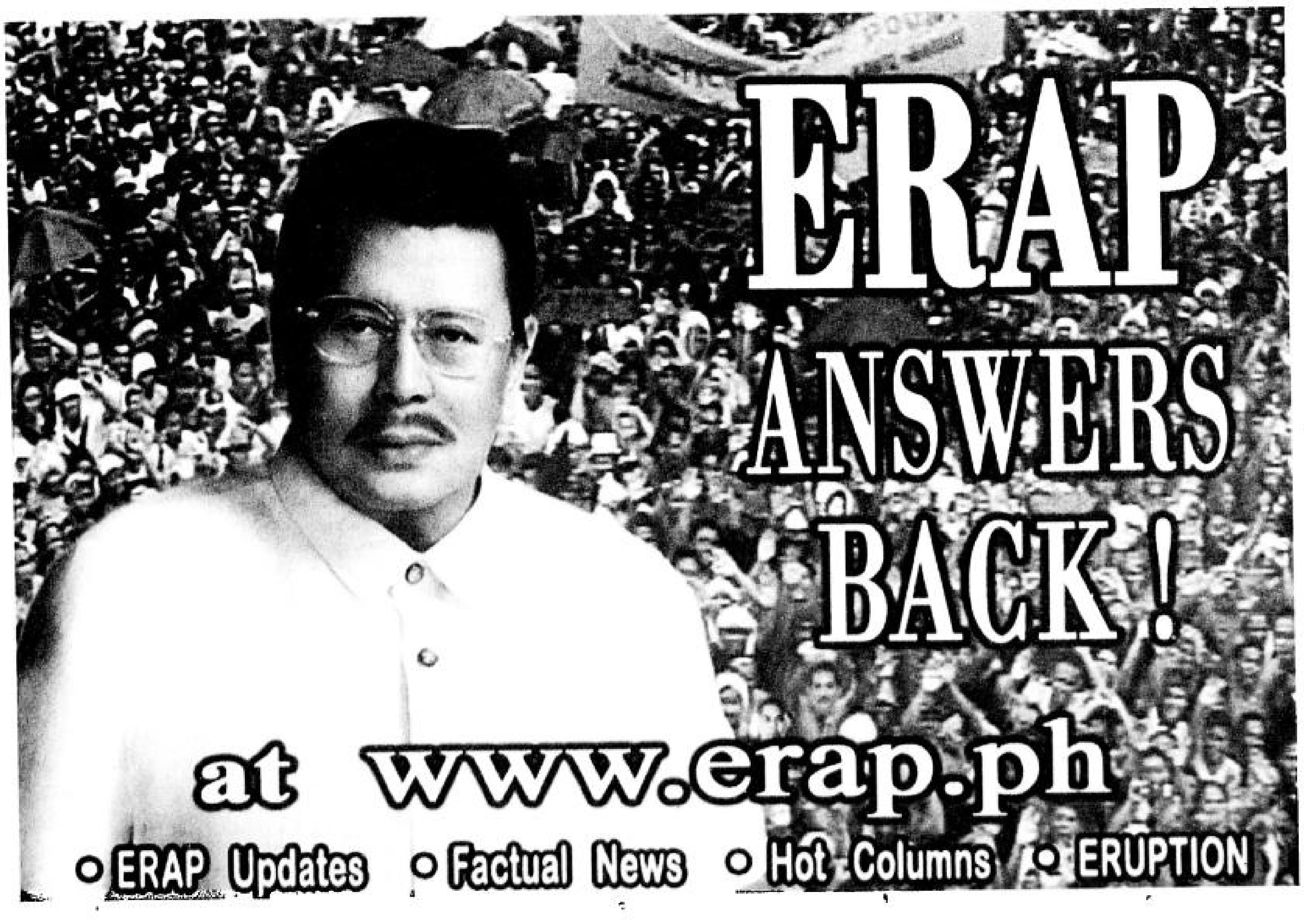
CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A year-old girl died of suspected meningococcemia in a private hospital in this city on Saturday, a Department of Health official in Central Luzon said.

Dr. Rio Magpantay, DOH assistant regional director, said the girl, of Macabebe town, died a few minutes after she was taken to the hospital at about 6 a.m. Saturday.

Magpantay said the DOH took blood samples from the girl to confirm the presence of the bacteria causing the fatal meningitis strain.

Personnel at the private hospital who had close contacts with the girl were given antibiotics to strengthen their immune system.

The girl's relatives were also given antibiotics, Magpantay said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



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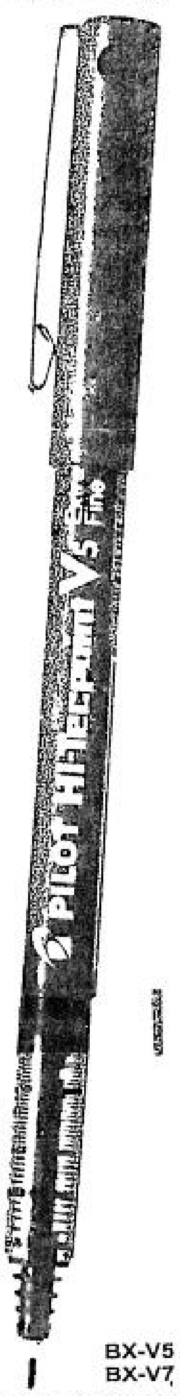

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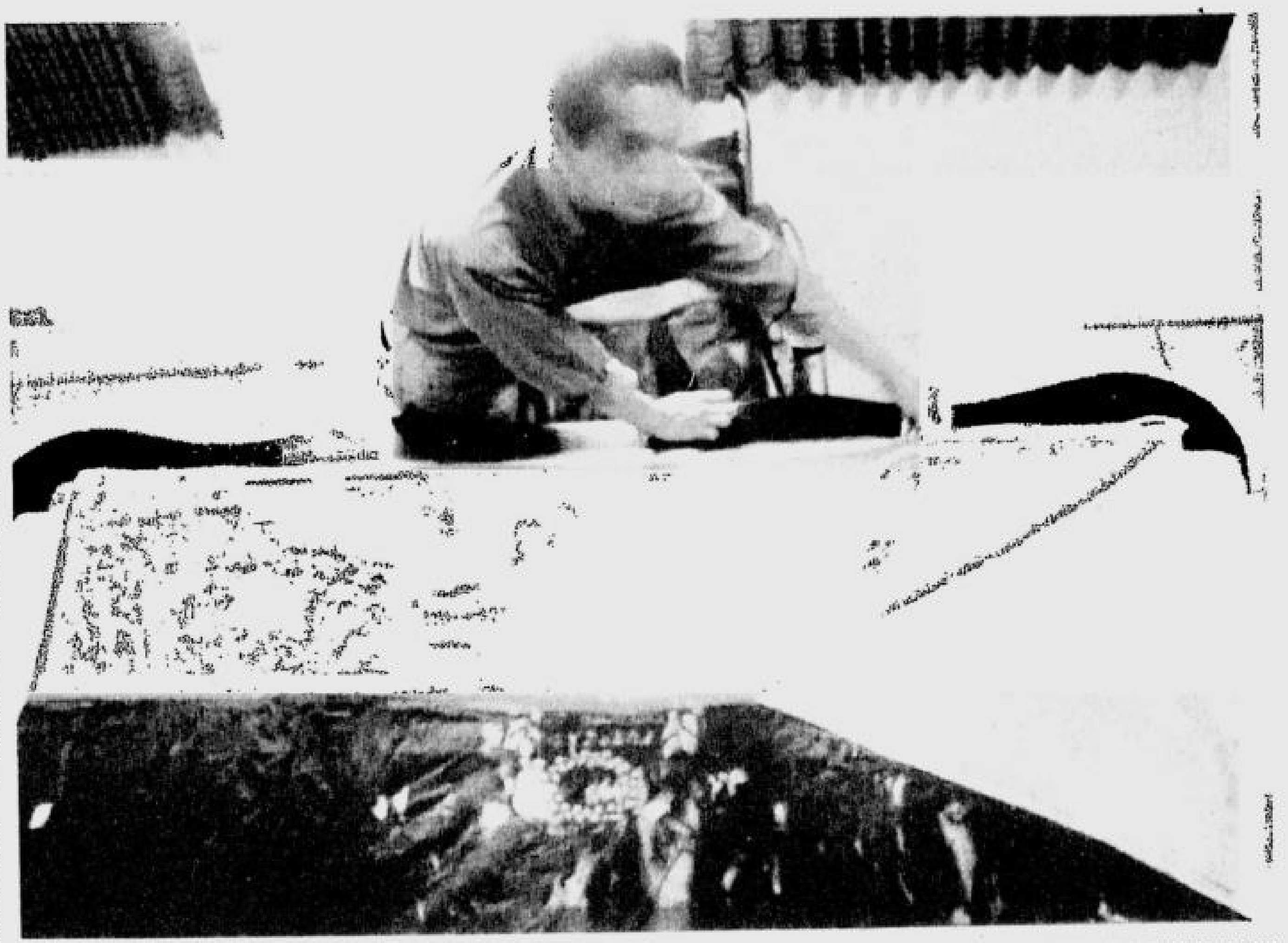
Museum hides original flag for 'security'

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau



THE ORIGINAL flag at the Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo Museum in Baguio City.

EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

BAGUIO CITY—For the first time since the Philippine Independence centennial on June 12, 1998, custodians of the country's original flag kept it out of the public eye on Sunday, citing security concerns.

Francisco Alonso, curator of the Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo Museum here, unrolled a tattered flag, measuring six feet long and featuring a sun that bears a mythical face.

Heirs of Aguinaldo kept the flag in their custody after discovering it under the hero's deathbed. They have maintained that this is the flag that their great grandfather unfurled on June 12, 1898 in Kawit, Cavite, when he declared Philippine independence.

Government historians never validated Aguinaldo's claims, and to date, the flag has been credited more as an oddity rather than a national relic.

Claims

But since a Filipino-American claimed that a US museum had the original flag, the Aguinaldo family has increased security over the relic, said lawyer Honorato Aquino, corporate secretary of the Emilio Aguinaldo-Suntay Foundation Inc., which runs the museum.

"There's a possibility the government can claim ownership of the relic, now that the National Historical Institute (NHI) has declared that the San Francisco flag is not the original flag," said Aquino, a former Baguio representative.

He was referring to a stained satin flag that Filipino-American Rudy Asercion discovered at the San Francisco War Memorial in February.

Asercion, a member of the war memorial council, was convinced of the flag's authenticity, saying that American Gen. Frederick Funston might have confiscated it in 1902 at the height of the Filipino-American war.

The flag that was unfurled in 1898 was declared missing between 1907 and 1919, after the American government prohibited the display of the Philippine flag, according to Aguinaldo's own documents.

Lacking

But Aquino said the San Francisco flag lacked one crucial detail—the mythological sun god.

Aquino said too many details found in historical records disputed Asercion's research, while supporting the Aguinaldo family's claims that it was holding the genuine article.

Historians are divided over the flag's descriptions.

The flag being kept here is made of two layers of silk and satin, which are woven together by golden thread. The colors representing peace (blue) and war (red) are far deeper than the contemporary flag.

It also has golden inscriptions running on the peace side: Fuerzas Expedicionarias del Norte de Luzon.

Aguinaldo's heirs claimed that the inscriptions were inspired by the French Revolution, which fascinated their great grandfather.

Every year since 1998, the flag had been put in a dimly lit corner of the museum.

Professional conservationists hired by Aguinaldo's great grandson, Emilio Aguinaldo Suntay III, in 1999 and 2000 provided the family detailed guidelines to preserve the relic, including non-exposure to direct sunlight or strong artificial lights.

Aquino said the flag might crumble when touched, compelling the family to finally seal the relic in a humidity-controlled room.

When the INQUIRER last saw the flag, its silk fabric was frayed beyond repair. Only a protective net was keeping it together.

Interest

Interest in the flag brought the curious to the museum in 1998 when the INQUIRER revived interest in the relic. But visitors dwindled to only four people by June 12, 2003.

Aquino said he toured the museum on Sunday to discover that nobody visited the gallery room, where a replica of Aguinaldo's flag is on display.

The only bright point of the flag's story is that the Aguinaldo flag has finally gotten some respect.

The city government celebrated National Flag Day on May 28 at the museum, to acknowledge the authenticity of the Aguinaldo flag.

"This is the first and only time a government entity has recognized that we have the genuine first flag," Aquino said.

ROUNDUP

Village exec kills self

COTABATO CITY—A village official committed suicide, allegedly because he could no longer stand his wife's nagging. Cloyd Mojado, 27, barangay councilor of Poblacion 3, was found by relatives hanging in the couple's room on Sunday. "He was so depressed and felt so humiliated by his wife's constant nagging," Clarita Mojado, the councilor's mother, said. The woman said her son had complained that his wife had been verbally abusing him. The victim's wife refused to comment on the claims. Senior Supt. Ajijul Hadjirul, city police chief, said they would continue investigating the case.

Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Balik Mindoro launched

ORIENTAL Mindoro officials yesterday pushed through with their "Balik-Mindoro" project, which aims to transform their province into a tourist destination and an investment haven for Mindoreños who are now either overseas contract workers or migrants in other countries. The project proponents have also seriously considered a proposal to put up a retirement haven not only for Mindoreños, but also for Manila-based retiring journalists, who have had enough of city life. Rep. Rodolfo G. Valencia said the improved peace and order situation in the province also helped promote eco-tourism, including the preservation of the rare tamaraw on Mount Halcon. Tourism Undersecretary Oscar Palabyab lauded the efforts of the provincial officials during the launching of the project.

Grenade suspect nabbed

COTABATO CITY—Police here arrested on Thursday evening a woman, who was identified as behind the 2003 grenade throwing incident that injured about a dozen people. Senior Insp. Samson Obatay, police precinct-4 commander, said it took them nearly two years before Niki Maulana was arrested. Maulana was the subject of an arrest order after witnesses said she hurled a grenade during a fist-fight between her husband and a client in their money-lending business.

Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Marijuana destroyed

COTABATO CITY—Narcotics agents, Army soldiers and policemen uprooted some 33,000 fully grown marijuana plants worth P6.6 million in Barangay Pagangan in Matanog, Maguindanao, during an early morning raid on Wednesday. Senior Supt. Jane Andres-Aunso, director of the Philippine Drugs Enforcement Agency in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said the haul was the biggest in the region in recent months. Aunso said they identified an Omar Tarusan as the leader of the group behind the marijuana plantation. She said marijuana plants grown in the town found its way to the cities of Davao, Cagayan de Oro and General Santos, and the provinces of South Cotabato and Sarangani.

Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Antimalaria budget less than 5¢ per Filipino, says solon

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—A Filipino only gets less than five centavos for malaria prevention and control.

Rep. Antonio Alvarez (Palawan, 1st district) said the measly amount could be the reason for widespread ignorance of the cause of deaths of three reporters who documented a malaria case in Rizal, Palawan.

Reyster Langit and Arnold Tañare, producer and cameraman of a national TV show, died of cerebral malaria, which they might have contracted while doing a documentary about the cave-dwelling community of Tau't Bato.

The third member of the team, Palawan-based dwIZ stringer and freelancer Jesus Christian Macadaeg, died from multiple organ failure as a result of septicemia in a private hospital here.

The budget for malaria prevention and control is only P3.4 million for the year as stated in the General Appropriations Act, said Alvarez.

"If you are going to divide the budget for the whole population in the country, the government is only willing to spend 4 centavos for every Filipino," Alvarez said.

There are around 100,000 victims of malaria everyday, according to Alvarez, quoting statistics from the Department of Health.

"This means, P34 for every patient."

A malaria patient needs at least P1,000 just for medicines, doctor's fees and hospitalization is still not included, according to Palawan-based Kilusan Ligtas Malaria (KLM) project director Rey Angluben.

Unlike other high profile diseases like the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), malaria is endemic in 65 provinces that needs attention.

"Although no actors are campaigning against malaria, like what they're doing with AIDS, we should not forget that this illness ranks 9th in the causes of death among Filipinos," Alvarez said.

He called on the Department of Health and the Department of Budget and Management to lobby with Congress for a bigger budget for malaria control.

He also urged nongovernment groups and the private sector to help voice out the lack of budget.

Palawan so far has the most strategic way of combating malaria in the country through the community-based KLM, a sustainable malaria prevention and control program being funded by the Shell Philippines Exploration BV (Spex), operator of the Malampaya Project and the provincial government. *Jofelle P. Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Armed 'lumad' group relents to entry of mining for jobs, houses

MANAY, Davao Oriental—Armed Mandaya people who had been opposing the entry of large-scale mining companies into their gold-rich village had a change of heart in exchange for free housing, electricity and employment.

Bonifacio Masagnay, chieftain of the Mandaya in the province, said his people and their armed warriors would no longer fight the mining firms after a recent dialogue with company executives.

"I told them (mining firms) to be true to their promises or the natives will rise up against them," Masagnay said.

He said at least 15,000 Mandaya natives in Barangay Taocanga would greatly benefit from the operation of at least two mining companies.

"We have no choice but to let them mine our villages simply because of poverty. While we want to protect our ancestral lands from ecologically destructive activities like mining, we also need to survive from the worsening economic condition in the country," he said.

Mandaya tribal warriors, armed with "*bukakang*" or homemade shotguns, earlier vowed to block large-scale mining firms from entering their villages. Some of them even ventured into small-scale mining.

Lowel Pelayo, provincial mining engineer, said the gold mining operations of the natives had to stop after several tunnels caved in.

"Their mining method is destructive to the ecology. The small-scale miners are digging tunnels just anywhere," Pelayo said.

Gov. Maria Elena Palma Gil, herself a Mandaya, recently declared a moratorium on gold mining as she claimed that the more than 6,000 small-scale miners in the newly found gold rush area in Taocanga were operating without mining permits from the provincial government. *Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

DA sees bright prospects for upland veggies

By Delmar Cariño
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—The Department of Agriculture is encouraging farmers in the province to start packing their vegetables properly and avail themselves of the benefits of expanding markets under the department's two new marketing strategies: "Huwarang Palengke" and "May Gulay."

Francisco Ramos, director of the DA's agribusiness and marketing assistance service, said the future of highland vegetables, like cabbages, potatoes and carrots, was bright under the new programs since farmers could now directly transact with their Metro Manila buyers.

Speaking before farmers who attended the Benguet Farmers Summit at the provincial capitol here on Friday, Ramos said the new programs were designed to widen the local farmers' market connections in the metropolis and eliminate price manipulations by middlemen.

Markets, which patronize farm products, including vegetables, directly from producers under affordable prices, are given incentives to become members of the "Huwarang Palengke," Ramos said.

"May Gulay" is a DA-initiated business of selling packed and ready to cook vegetable combinations for everyday Filipino dishes, he said.

The farmers welcomed the programs but were skeptical about how the DA would implement them in view of the absence of a body tasked with overseeing the link between them and the markets.

"The programs are okay," Jose Andiso, president of the Benguet Farmers Federation, said. "But the DA must see to it that there will really be stalls already reserved for highland vegetables to avoid red tape in talking with market administrators."

Under the programs, the farmers are already assured of a steady demand for their products under a sound pricing system that gives favorable returns, Ramos said.

He said the province's farmers could now negotiate to sell their products to five private and five public markets in the metropolis which are the initial members of the "Huwarang Palengke."

He identified the public markets as Dagonoy market in Manila, Marikina public market, Mutya ng Pasig market in Pasig City, Pamilihang Lungsod ng Muntinlupa City, and the Polo public market in Valenzuela City.

The private markets are Clara market in Parañaque City, Concepcion market and People's market in Marikina, and Farmer's and Munoz markets in Quezon City.

Twenty other markets are being tapped. Fifteen of them have said they are willing to accommodate highland vegetables, Ramos said..

Rescued Indons' ordeal recalled

"FOR 45 days, they moved from one island to another, evading maritime and sea border patrols," Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Alberto Braganza said during the presentation of rescued Indonesians Yamin Labuso and Erickson Hutagaol Sunday.

Braganza said the victims were moved to the islands of Sitangkai, Sibutu, Tumindaw Isle, Pandami, Lapak, Manubul and Lugus in Tawi-Tawi "until the kidnappers got tired and sought refuge with the Abu Sayyaf Group in Sulu."

There was a brief clash during the rescue, according to Col. Domingo Tutaan Jr., Southern Command's chief of staff.

"But the kidnappers scampered for safety, leaving [behind] the Indonesians, who were startled and very afraid," Tutaan added.

The Indonesians were kidnapped off Palau Island in Mataking, Semporna in Malaysia on March 30.

Braganza said Labuso and Hutagaol claimed that they were separated from their ship captain Ahmad Rasmiadi, who remains in captivity, when they landed in Sulu last month. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

INQBOX
Question of the Week
What do you think should President Gloria Macapagal - Arroyo do in the wake of the jueteng and audio tape recording scandals?
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Japan threatens ban on mangoes from RP

COTABATO CITY—The Japanese government has threatened to ban mango from the Philippines, particularly from Mindanao, if Japanese health experts find excessive chlorpyrifos residues on the exported mangoes.

Abusama Alid, chief of the Department of Agriculture in Central Mindanao, on Sunday said Japanese officials in Manila had issued a warning recently to all mango exporters, growers, importers and distributors against using chlorpyrifos-containing pesticides.

Chlorpyrifos is one of the most widely used organophosphate insecticides in the United States. The main uses of chlorpyrifos are in agriculture and non-agricultural settings like homes, office buildings, schools and warehouses.

"The first detection of such residue was in September 2004 and the second detection was in December 2004. The Japanese government had given our country a last warning to ban our mango exports if excessive chlorpyrifos residues will be detected again in the future," Alid said.

Alid said chlorpyrifos should not be applied on the mango fruit itself, adding it is not approved for control of ants in mango. *Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Solon breaks protocol at Senate

LEGAZPI CITY—It was a case of the family's patriarch breaking protocol to defend what he said was the family's integrity.

Rep. Luis Villafuerte declared he was waiving his immunity when he volunteered to testify at the Senate last week to deny accusations that he and his son, now Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Ray Villafuerte, were involved in "jueteng."

The elder Villafuerte cited errors in the testimony of confessed jueteng bagman Richard Garcia, including his mispronunciation of towns and villages in Camarines Sur, in a bid to question Garcia's credibility.

In his testimony, Garcia said the Villafuertes controlled the appointments of police officers in the province and therefore, also the operations of jueteng there.

But Villafuerte said several officers named by Garcia had already denied in radio interviews Garcia's accusation.

He said in a phone interview that he had to go to the Senate "because it is now the entire Villafuerte family that is under attack."

He said in Garcia's testimony, there was no mention at all of him or his son or any of the Villafuerte directly receiving jueteng money for protection.

Media, he said, "just added those things up and made that conclusion" although any reference to the Villafuertes directly receiving money from jueteng was absent from Garcia's testimony.

At the Senate hearing, Villafuerte said he quoted extensively from Garcia's testimony because it would prove that Garcia never mentioned anything about the Villafuertes receiving money from jueteng. "It's all insinuation that media took to mean direct accusation," he said.

Wilfredo "Boy" Mayor, a confessed jueteng operator in Albay turned witness, had said jueteng would stop in the entire Philippines, "but never in Camarines Sur."

"I have nothing to hide. I have come to (the Senate) protect my family and my family's integrity," said the elder Villafuerte.

His son, the governor, said he is also taking up the cudgels for the family.

"These people find it easy to accuse people of involvement in illegal gambling but proving their accusations by presenting hard evidence that would stand in a court of law is another matter," said the governor in a press statement.

"Why are the charges not being filed yet, if there was any law violated?" the governor asked.

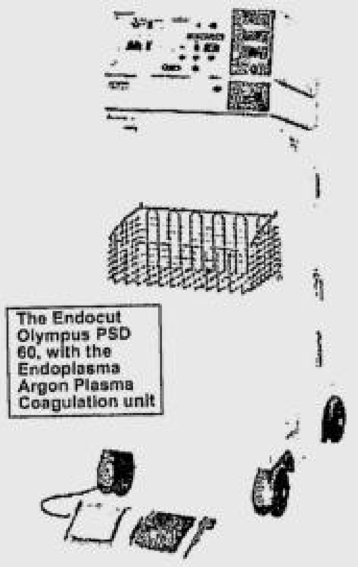
"This is an injustice for local chief executives... because aside from their reputation being unfairly maligned, they have to reply to accusations that distract them from duties and responsibilities," the governor said. *Jed Ll. Bacason, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

UP-PGH Gastroenterology and Cardiology sections receive state-of-the-art equipment

Today marks another milestone for the UP-Philippine General Hospital as the sections of Gastroenterology and Cardiology of the Department of Medicine acquire state-of-the-art equipment. Through the Priority Development Assistance Fund of Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, the best and latest in gastrointestinal endoscopic and cardiovascular ultrasound technology come within reach of the growing number of patients at the largest tertiary hospital in the country.

The acquisition of three units of the Olympus Endoscopic Video Information System shall promote better and immediate access to diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopic procedures that are vital in the management of gastrointestinal and hepatobiliary diseases. The Endocut Olympus PSD 60, with the Endoplasma Argon Plasma Coagulation unit, are only two of the few available in the country that allow for effective life-saving hemostasis and devitalization of various gastrointestinal pathologies. The Cardiology section will acquire a state-of-the-art portable cardiovascular ultrasound machine to augment its non-invasive cardiovascular diagnostic unit. With this machine, the section will be able to serve more requests for echocardiogram. Its portability will also allow cardiologists of PGH to perform bedside examinations on admitted patients who are in critical condition. Despite its small size, the cardiovascular ultrasound system maintains and does not sacrifice the full capability and functions of the regular-sized machine.

Service to the Filipino has always been the primary goal of PGH. With the addition of these equipment to the diagnostic and therapeutic facilities of the hospital, the patients, who are mostly from the lower socio-economic class, can now undergo technologically advanced diagnostic examinations and procedures.



The Endocut Olympus PSD 60, with the Endoplasma Argon Plasma Coagulation unit

MESSAGE

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago

Greetings and salutations to the staff and administration of the Philippine General Hospital!

For nearly a century, the PGH has been in the forefront of rendering quality medical services for the Filipino masses. It has been the bastion of hope for the underprivileged who need medical treatment with heart and compassion. To efficiently serve the ever growing demand for health care, this institution needs to be up to date with the latest techniques and technology the medical world has to offer.

The call for modernization and adequate funding has been a continuing crusade for the health sector. Given an annually diminishing health budget and an ever increasing clientele of ailing ordinary Filipinos, the Philippine General Hospital has to muster all the support it could get to maintain its status as the center of excellence and leadership in health care, training and research.

This donation of equipment for gastroenterology and cardiology is a small gesture of assistance towards the modernization of PGH. I am confident that these machines will be of great service to our countrymen. As a senator, I assure that the Philippine General Hospital and the rest of the medical sector can rely on my advocacy in protecting and promoting every Filipino's right to health.

More power to the Philippine General Hospital and may you continue your legacy of excellence, charity, and selfless public service!

The Section of Gastroenterology

The Section of Gastroenterology of the University of the Philippines and the Philippine General Hospital is proud to be of service to thousands of our less fortunate countrymen. Every year over 7,000 patients go to the Gastrointestinal Clinic (GIC) outpatient and in-patient sections. Our specialties cover adult medicine pertaining to nutrition, digestion, gastrointestinal, liver, pancreatic and biliary diseases. Our Digestive Endoscopy Unit caters to the largest number of patients daily and offers advanced diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopy with incomparable expertise owing to a highly respected and competent staff. Eleven active specialists and six clinical fellows make up the UP-PGH GIC which is multi-awarded both locally and internationally, as it paves the way for advances in the field of gastroenterology. Our services include:

Esophagogastroduodenoscopy (EGD)/Upper Endoscopy
Colonoscopy/Lower Endoscopy
Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography (ERCP)
Variceal Band Ligation
Dilatation Procedures (Achalasia, Esophageal Stricture...)
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Cyanoacrylate Injection Sclerotherapy
Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastrostomy Tube Insertion
Rectal Imprint
Diode Laser Tumor Ablation Therapy
Gastrointestinal and Biliary Metal Stent Insertion

Contact us for details: 521-8450 loc 2530 or email us at pghgic@yahoo.com

GASTROENTEROLOGY STAFF 1st Row: Dr. Elmer Cabanayan, Dr. Patricia Cabral-Prodigalidad, Dr. Sherwin Feir, Dr. Peter Sy, Dr. Melflor Atienza, Dr. Lourdes Daez, Dr. Jenny Limquiaco, Dr. Mark De Lusong, Dr. Jun Pilapil 2nd Row: Dr. Virgilio Banez, Dr. Felix Zano, Dr. Florencio Pineda, Dr. Eulenia Nolasco, Dr. Ernesto Domingo, Dr. Venancio Gloria, Dr. Antonio Comia

The Section of Cardiology

Cardiovascular or heart diseases is the leading cause of mortality and morbidity in the Philippines. It afflicts Filipinos in a variety of ways through hypertension, heart attack, stroke, diabetes, kidney failure and heart failure. It does not spare anyone, young or old, man or woman rich or poor. The Section of Cardiology of UP-PGH is committed to continuously perform its pivotal role of providing quality cardiovascular health care for Filipinos.

Over 10,000 patients are seen yearly by the section at the out-patient department and in-patient wards, providing various services to meet the ever-growing cardiovascular needs of our population. It provides the following:

General Services

- General and subspecialty cardiology clinics
- In patient cardiovascular care including ICU
- Perioperative evaluation and care for non-cardiac and cardiac surgery
- Arrhythmia management and pacemaker implantation
- Peripheral vascular evaluation and care

Diagnostic Services

- Coronary angiography and hemodynamic study
- Peripheral vascular angiography
- ECG
- Exercise stress testing
- Echocardiography (resting, exercise, contrast dobutamine and transesophageal)
- Doppler study (color flow and spectral)
- Tilt table test
- Pacemaker interrogation and analysis

Interventional Cardiology

- Coronary angioplasty with or without stenting
- Percutaneous transeptal mitral
- Commissurotomy
- Percutaneous angioplasty of peripheral blood vessels
- Percutaneous closure of congenital heart defects
- Swan-Ganz catheterization
- Temporary and permanent pacemaker insertion
- Open heart surgery

SECTION OF CARDIOLOGY CONSULTANT STAFF First row, from left: Dr. Gregorio Patacsil, Dr. Dante Morales, Dr. Nelson Abelardo, Dr. Ramon Abarquez, Dr. Rody Sy, Dr. Raul Jara; Second row, from left: Dr. Eugene Reyes, Dr. Giselle Domingo, Dr. Mariano Lopez, Dr. Wilfred Dee, Dr. Rogelio Tangco, Dr. Antonio Dans, Dr. Donato Marañon, Dr. Eduardo Punzalan, Dr. John AÕonuevo, Dr. Enrique Campos, Dr. Ma.Teresa Abola

PROJECTS SOON-TO-BE LAUNCHED/INAUGURATED

A. Director's Office
1) Roll of Donors
2) Launch of PGH QuickInfo Kit 2005 & IEC materials
3) Inauguration of the Director's Board Room and Media Room
4) Interdisciplinary Staff Development Program

B. Health Operations
1) Total Ambulatory Wellness Program/Clinic
2) Revisited Hospital Networking Plan
3) Inauguration of Renovated Main Pharmacy
4) 2nd edition, Medical Services Directory
5) PGH Research Inventory 2004

C. Administration
1) Compressed Air Plant System
2) Dietary Kitchen Upgrade
3) Faculty and Medical Arts Building
4) Renovation of the UP Health Service
5) Visitors' Holding Area
6) Security Office Repainting
7) Re-roofing of Central Block
8) Medical Records Area Improvements
9) Occupational and Environmental Safety
10) Family Card
11) Quick Response Team
12) Task Force on Preventive Maintenance
13) Annual Repairs schedule
14) Infrastructure and Project Implementation Guidelines
15) Pediatric Burn Unit/Exhaust System
16) Renovation of NSSCU
17) Conversion of Presidential Suite to 3 private rooms
18) Public Restrooms

D. Fiscal Services
1) Business Zone
2) Fiscal Management Reforms
3) Annual Procurement Plan

E. Nursing Services
1) Bantay barangayan sa PGH
2) TLRC / Livelihood Programs
3) Drug-Free Workplace Guidelines
4) Specialty and Subspecialty Nursing Upgrades
5) "Buhayin ang Nurses Home" Project
6) Gender and Development
7) Nursing Skills Laboratory

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GMA dared: Break your silence on tapes

From page A1

and for all.

Should that foreign agency determine that the tape was a fake, the opposition would not pursue its threat to file an impeachment complaint against her, Escudero said.

Mortally wounded

"It's not yet time to celebrate," administration Sen. Richard Gordon said.

Political analyst Benito Lim said the opposition may have failed to rouse massive public anger, but "it doesn't mean the President is out of the woods."

"The charge has not been answered or addressed, and she will be hounded continuously by these charges unless she clarifies," Lim said on ANC television.

"This would be a big source of her problem because politically, she is mortally wounded."

Rumors about the existence of the alleged Arroyo-Garcillano conversation had been circulating before Bunye on June 6 produced two CD copies of the alleged tape—one purportedly genuine and the other doctored—to preempt an alleged opposition plot to disseminate it.

Many tapes

Opposition lawyer Alan Paguia later produced his own copy, saying it was a genuine tape showing an alleged high-level conspiracy to tamper with the election results.

Former National Bureau of Investigation Deputy Director Samuel Ong then emerged to say he had a "master copy" of the supposed recording.

Bunye later modified his earlier statement that it was Ms Arroyo's voice on his genuine copy of the tape. Paguia faded briefly from the limelight, and Ong went into hiding in a seminary.

Politicians, churchmen, businesmen and members of militant groups also stepped into the fray, adding to the growing public confusion.

Roxas warning

Although tensions appeared to ease over the weekend, Ms Arroyo's allies said it was not yet time to bring out the champagne. *(See related story in Across the Nation, Page A17.)*

"If they [Malacañang officials] take a business-as-usual attitude, this will happen again," Sen. Manuel Roxas II said.

"Far from over," Lacson said of the scandals.

Reacting to Ms Arroyo's Independence Day call for an end to "dirty politics," Lacson said: "What could be dirtier in politics than cheating? They are not addressing the issues, which are cheating in the election and the [jueteng] allegations."

He earlier said an Australian voice analysis company had authenticated the Paguia tape.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said Ms Arroyo was mistaken if she thought she was out of danger.

A la Nixon

"The crisis is still there and unfortunately it will continue until she listens to calls for her to resign," said Pimentel, who had earlier called for the President and Vice President Noli de Castro to quit to pave the way for special elections.

"To save the country, I am asking her to do a Nixon," he told reporters, referring to US President Richard Nixon's decision to resign in 1974 in the wake of the Watergate bugging scandal.

Biazon said Ms Arroyo still had options to avert her political destruction. "I leave it to the President to think about," he said.

Returning from a trip to Japan, Senate President Franklin Drilon expressed confidence that Ms Arroyo would overcome the crisis.

"We'll get over this political turmoil that we are seeing today ... Democracy will survive," he said.

One more chance

Industrialist Raul T. Concepcion said Ms Arroyo should treat the next 12 months as her last chance to redeem herself.

"The country still has the same problems it had when the President began her term 12 months ago. I think the President has to take it upon herself to make the right moves in the next 12 months to address these problems," Concepcion said in an interview with the Inquirer.

"The handwriting is on the wall, she should act decisively now."

Moral obligation

Former Finance Secretary Ramon del Rosario Jr. called for sobriety. "The President deserves our support as the duly elected leader," he said.

Even the country's carmakers are worried.

The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. appealed for calm to shield the business sector from the political tempest.

Campi president Elizabeth Lee said: "We support the constitutional authority amidst the political scandals surrounding the Arroyo administration. The rule of law must be maintained and our Constitution respected. We owe at least that much to ourselves as Filipinos."

Activist priest Fr. Joe Dizon backed opposition demands for Ms Arroyo to tell the nation if she had really talked to Garcillano.

"It is the moral obligation of the President to speak to the nation and tell it whether she was the one on the tape," Dizon said at the Kapihan sa Manila forum. ***With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., TJ Burgonio, Nikko Dizon and Leila B. Salaverria***

Taped voices authentic, says Tatad

From page A1

"confirmed that it is President Macapagal-Arroyo and ... Garcillano whose voices have been recorded on tape, talking about ways of cheating in the 2004 elections in Mindanao."

Tatad said the VII, which he described as reputable, had also found the tapes to be "contiguous and unaltered" and "legitimate reproductions of original phone calls."

The National Bureau of Investigation immediately belittled the report.

Ricardo Diaz, chief of the NBI's Interpol division, said that only the NBI or the Philippine National Police could come up with an authorized investigation or report containing such a voice analysis.

Diaz said Tatad's claim and an earlier assertion by opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson that the alleged Arroyo-Garcillano tapes were authentic were both "unauthorized."

"They are not members of the law enforcement body, that's why they have no authority to release or to conduct such examinations. They can conduct as many tests as they want but that would remain unofficial," Diaz told reporters.

Proof of cheating?

Opponents of Ms Arroyo said the taped conversations were proof that Ms Arroyo had cheated in the last elections.

"We're presenting [the results] to our countrymen so that they will be the ones to decide what should be done. But the problem is, we're being prevented from hearing what's on the tape," Tatad said during the Kapihan sa Manila forum at the Manila Hotel.

Tatad now chairs the nongovernment group Citizens vs Corruption Task Force.

He told reporters in an ambush interview later that the tape sent to the VII was similar to one of the two tapes released last week by Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

Which of the tapes?

When asked which of the two tapes that Bunye played to reporters was sent to the United States, Tatad said: "The one not manufactured by Malacañang."

Tatad also said he sent the tapes to VII in late May, shortly after he was able to listen to them. He did not say where he got the tapes.

He also said he did not come out with the tapes immediately because he wanted them examined first by experts.

Earlier, Bunye said the opposition planned to come out with the tapes but that these had been altered.

According to Tatad, VII was given voice samples of Ms Arroyo and Garcillano for comparison with the voices on the tape.

'Strong similarity'

According to Tatad, VII stated in a June 3 report: "Segment #14 from Track 22 of the CD-R produced the most comparable speech pattern of the questioned female. An aural comparison to the cassette recording of Macapagal-Arroyo indicated a strong similarity to the sounds of the voices, suggesting it was the same speaker."

Tatad said a June 9 VII report also noted similarities in the voices of Garcillano and the man named "Gary," whom Bunye had earlier said was the person Ms Arroyo was allegedly talking with on the phone.

Comparison of voices

"Our aural comparison indicated a similarity in the voices. Of particular interest to us was the 's' sounds, in which both known and unknown 'Gary' spoke with a lisp (speech impediment)," the report purportedly said.

The VII reports were signed purportedly by VII president Ernst F.W. "Rix" Alexanderson and notarized by Mary Carol Niezgoda, a notary public in New Jersey.

The VII conducts voice print analysis of an aural and spectographic nature, according to Tatad's statement.

Aural analysis involves critical listening to the speaker's pitch, pronunciation, accent, rate of speech, breathing patterns and speech impediments.

Spectographic analysis is conducted through the visual comparison of the patterns produced by speech sounds.

Tatad said the issue at stake now was Ms Arroyo's alleged cheating during the 2004 polls and not the wiretapping activities of the people who produced the tapes.

"When someone points to the moon, you look at the moon and not the finger doing the pointing. So when someone points to a crime, you look at the crime," he said.

Phones bugged

Tatad also said he and other members of the opposition were also being bugged, citing what he said were intelligence reports that he had been receiving.

"Whenever I use the phones, there are echoes or buzzing sounds," he said.

Last week, Senator Lacson said a copy of the tape released to the public by opposition lawyer Alan Paguia had been found to be authentic by a voice analysis firm based in Queensland, Australia.

Diaz said that although the NBI had its own technical people who could conduct tape analysis, the bureau did not have the necessary equipment.

"We need unbiased and neutral experts, those that also come from the law enforcement community, those who have the technical capability," he said.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said: "We now know that there is a trend [toward] destabilization. One [aim] is to destroy the NBI."

"Copies of these tapes are now circulating all over. Which one is true, we don't know," he said.

Senate probe

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon yesterday said his committee was ready to conduct an investigation into the wiretapping controversy.

But Biazon said his committee on national defense and other Senate committees which may have jurisdiction over the issue might have to wait until Congress reopens on July 25.

"If the plenary gives me the mandate, I will conduct an investigation," he said.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. called on Biazon to convene his committee now, saying Senate committees could conduct inquiries even when the chamber was in recess.

The two houses ended their sessions last Friday for the sine die or long break and will not reconvene until the opening of the second regular session on July 25, the day the President is scheduled to deliver her State of the Nation Address. *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana*

Shades of Mahusay, Ping calls latest caper

OPPOSITION Sen. Panfilo Lacson could not help but feel a sense of deja vu as the drama unfolded yesterday at the San Carlos Seminary.

Lacson let out a chuckle when asked about reports that a woman was crying outside the seminary saying that her husband, Sgt. Vidal Doble, of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), was being held inside against his will and wanted to be rescued.

Samuel Ong, a former National Bureau of Investigation official, had sought refuge in the seminary on Friday after claiming he had a master copy of the tape of the wiretapped conversations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano. Ong said Doble had given him the tape but denied Doble had been forced to come to the seminary.

The story seemed familiar to Lacson. Two years ago, he had caused an investigation of a scandal in which he said First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo had hidden P270 million in secret bank accounts under the name of Jose Pidal.

"Style Udong," Lacson said, referring to his former witness Udong Mahusay who retracted his testimony against the First Gentleman after being "rescued" by Malacañang aides.

"Ganyan nga ang tactic nila—pinapaiyak ang asawa o kamag-anak (That is their tactic—presenting the crying wife or relatives)," Lacson said.

Lacson had secured the crucial affidavit of Mahusay, a former messenger of the First Gentleman. But then housing czar Michael Defensor staged a clever coup, "rescuing" Mahusay from a Tagaytay hotel, where Lacson had billeted him, with Mahusay's family and brother in tow and with no less than the presidential helicopter available to transport them to the waiting arms of Malacañang.

Mike Arroyo's brother, now Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo, later stepped forward to claim ownership of the Jose Pidal accounts but refused to talk at the Senate hearing.

The Pidal case had lain dormant until the Senate inquiry on illegal gambling last week when a civilian witness, Sandra Cam, testified that Iggy Arroyo had practiced for weeks to forge his brother's signature. *Juliet Labog-Javellana*

Tale of the tapes

From page A1

Paguia, former counsel of deposed President Joseph Estrada, releases two tapes which he claimed he received on May 15. He says the tapes are authentic, and included conversations involving the President, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, Garcillano and former Sen. Robert Barbers. Paguia says the tapes showed how Garcillano allowed himself to be used by the President to cheat in the elections. He also says that he did a voice-over annotation on the tape.

Garcillano denies his was the other voice on the tape. Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos says the tapes did not contain the voice of any Comelec official as he brushed aside the need to investigate charges of poll fraud.

National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco issues a statement saying that initial technical analysis of the tapes released by Bunye showed the male voices belonged to different persons.

Malacañang says it is looking into the possible involvement of the Estrada camp in the latest effort to discredit the Arroyo administration. Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Merceditas Gutierrez says Paguia may be liable for violating the Anti-Wire Tapping Law if he indeed distributed copies of the taped conversation to the media.

Bunye blames "a small segment of the opposition" for the wiretapping but later backtracks, saying Malacañang had still to find out who bugged the President's conversations. He says the opposition had planned to play the tapes during a press conference at Sulo Hotel in Quezon City on Monday. No such tape was played at the press conference called by lawyer Homobono Adaza. Had the tapes been played, Bunye says Malacañang would have been able to identify the persons behind the wiretapping.

Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño says a congressional inquiry into the tapes could trigger impeachment proceedings against Ms Arroyo.

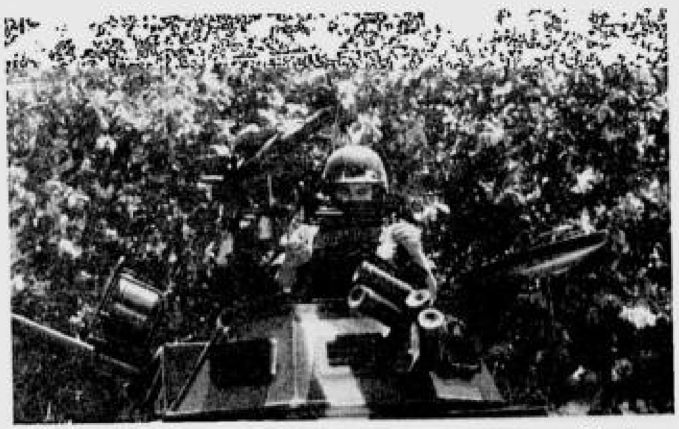
JUNE 8. Bunye says it was Ms Arroyo's voice on the tapes.

Edgar Ruado, a former administration political adviser, goes to the NBI office and says the man's voice in the controversial phone conversation sounded like his.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez says those who have copies of the CDs, and those broadcasting or publishing its contents are liable under the Anti-Wiretapping Act, adding that Paguia and Bunye are accountable under the law. He adds the illegal wiretaps cannot be used in impeachment proceedings.

Businessman Jose Concepcion, chair of the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections, says Garcillano was not assigned to supervise elections in Mindanao.

Brig. Gen. Marlou Quevedo, chief of the Intelligence Services of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, is sacked. But Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita denies Quevedo was dismissed because of the wiretapping controversy. Ermita's announcement comes hours after Armed Forces spokesperson Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual denied Quevedo had been sacked.



A SOLDIER sits on top of an armored personnel carrier outside the San Carlos Seminary on Edsa. Six truckloads of troops were dispatched to the area where former NBI Deputy Director Samuel Ong had been holed up.

JOAN BONDOC

June 9. Bunye admits committing a faux pas when he identified the President as the female voice on the recordings. According to him, this time he isn't sure it was Ms Arroyo's voice on the tape. He adds the CDs were delivered to his home in Alabang.

Gonzalez says he ordered the NBI to go after media organizations that violated the Anti-Wiretapping Act. He adds that he will start with INQ7.net because the nature of its medium provides for the wider dissemination of information.

June 10. Former NBI Deputy Director Samuel Ong surfaces at the Metropolitan Club in Makati City, accompanied by opposition figures. Ong presents the "mother" of the tapes that are circulating. He says that there are three other master tapes which are "equally explosive." Without playing the tape in his possession, he calls on Ms Arroyo to resign, asks the help of Susan Roces, seeks the Church's protection, and reiterates that he does not belong to any political organization.

Ong challenges authorities to take an inventory of Isafp files and says they'll find out that four tapes were missing. This is denied by Rear Adm. Tirso Danga, Isafp deputy chief of staff for intelligence, adding that wiretapping is not part of Isafp's job.

Ong is given refuge at the San Carlos Seminary. Manila Auxiliary Bishop Bernardino Cortez says the Church may have taken Ong in temporarily, but this did not mean the Church shared his cause.

US Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Joseph Mussomeli says in an interview with ANC that Washington fully supports Ms Arroyo. He reveals that he heard of the existence of the controversial tapes as early as April and May, but claims that no one in the US Embassy had a copy.

Gonzalez says Ong should not hide because the government will not arrest him yet although he is clearly liable for violating the Anti-Wiretapping Act and for inciting to sedition.

In an interview over GMA 7, Wycoco says Ong is a "plotter" with no credibility. According to Wycoco, Ong resented his (Wycoco's) appointment to the top NBI post. He adds that Ong supported the late Fernando Poe Jr. during the last presidential election.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero says Gonzalez should stop terrorizing the media. San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora says the opposition—unlike telecom companies, the Isafp and the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force—had no capability to bug the President's conversations, adding it was Garcillano who was most probably bugged.

June 11. Susan Roces visits Ong at the San Carlos Seminary and urges the people to remain calm.

In a press briefing inside the seminary, Ong says it was the Arroyo administration that provoked him to come out after Bunye presented the alleged wiretapped conversation. Had Bunye not done so, Ong says he would have just kept his silence and treated the existence of the audiotape as a trivial rumor.

He says he had already turned over the master tapes to Bishop Teodoro Bacani.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson says the Alan Paguia tapes are genuine, quoting the findings of Dr. Brian Lovell of Uniquest Pty Limited, a private forensic voice analysis and identification company based in Queensland, Australia. Lacson admits paying the company a fee of $5,500.

Senate President Franklin Drilon says no administration ally was jumping ship, and that administration Sen. Ramon Magsaysay had gone to the seminary only to help his friend Luis Sison protect Ong.

June 12. A Church official says the Church will cease to provide Ong sanctuary when an arrest warrant is served. However, Ong's lawyers say no illegal wiretapping charges can be filed if there are no complaints from those included in the conversations.

Gonzalez says he would request an arrest warrant for Ong on June 13. Wycoco says Ong is negotiating for a safe conduct pass.

JUNE 13. See Stories on Page A1.

By PDI Research

'Pusong Pinoy' Boys lead by example

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THEY do not want to be called heroes. Just call them the "Pusong Pinoy" Boys.

They don't care to be given cash rewards either. Good karma will do.

This group of middle-aged men: a newspaper dealer, a flower shop owner, a police officer and a fishball trader, who call themselves the "Pusong Pinoy Boys," are scheduled to receive P6 million as reward from a shabu laboratory informant to whom they had offered help for over a year and a quarter now.

But the group said they would rather leave the money in the hands of the government.

On Nov. 13, 2003, Gary (not his real name) was promised a P7.5-million reward for informing police about the activities of a transnational syndicate which imported shabu and chemicals from China. The disclosure led to the discovery of the cache in an abandoned warehouse in Valenzuela City.

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) under Gen. Edgar Aglipay, then National Police deputy director, promised Gary, a former security guard at a depot close to the shabu warehouse, that he would get P50,000 to P70,000 for each drug shipment discovered. The abandoned warehouse yielded about P1 billion in drugs.

By then, Gary was forced to quit his job for fear that his revelations could jeopardize his life.

The "Pusong Pinoy" Boys—Eugelio Alfonso, Joselito Alfonso, Ernesto Gonzales and Eric Aguinaldo—came to his rescue.

Scared

The group was formed through Gary's brother, who had asked his longtime friend Joselito Alfonso for help. "He was scared for Gary's life, so he came to me for help after the police raided the warehouse," Alfonso told the INQUIRER.

Alfonso then sought his uncle, Eugelio; his policeman friend, Gonzales, and another close friend, Aguinaldo.

"He (Joselito) came to me because he said I knew people who could help Gary," said the older Alfonso, a newspaper dealer and president of the Newsboys and Vendors of Cainta, Marikina, Antipolo Association Inc. (NVCMAA).

The four men became Gary's mentors and "financiers," taking turns in assisting him do the legwork and paperwork that confirmed that, indeed, Gary was the informant and that he was the person entitled to the large sum of money.

Last year, the "Pusong Pinoy" Boys brought Gary to dzMM to ask for a recommendation form addressed to then PDEA chief Anselmo Avenido. The form was signed by radio anchor Kaye Dacer and read: "Bearer, (Gary) of Tondo, Manila, has approached our station dzMM regarding his public service appeal about his reward for a particular drug case. Aware of your concern for our less fortunate citizens and your commitment to help the needy, we are referring this person to you personally..."

Because of the valuable help he received from the group, Gary decided to share his reward with them.

The P6 million would be handed over to them when the cash prize materializes sometime this month, he told the INQUIRER.

"But we had agreed to donate whatever share Gary was going to give us to the government because it needs the money," Alfonso said.

" Who doesn't need the money? But we thought it over and we decided to donate it to the government which needs it badly. Anyway, we have our own jobs and we also have our own businesses," he added.

Alfonso, 56, had gone through rough times. At the age of 12, he sold newspapers. Today, he is a dealer of various newspapers, including the INQUIRER.

"I have been a dealer of the INQUIRER for 20 years now. As a matter of fact, I was given a loyalty award just last month," he said.

The younger Alfonso, 39, on the other hand, owns a flower shop in Manila that counts famous personalities as clients.

Apart from the flower shop, he also dabbled in the scrap trade with Gonzales, his friend of 12 years. Gonzales, on the other hand, runs his own printing press with his wife, and is a full-time policeman. A Criminal Investigation Detection Group agent, the 49-year-old Gonzales has been in the police service for 30 years now.

Eric Aguinaldo, 26, the youngest in the group, maintains a thriving fishball trade, but is also thinking of going overseas to look for better opportunities.

He might pursue just that, but without the aid of the hard cash that awaits the group, he said.

A document provided the INQUIRER showed that the PDEA and the Department of Interior and Local Government would be allocated P500,000 each for their efforts in busting illegal drugs syndicates.

"These agencies could use the money to augment their funds for the policemen and other employees who are in need," the older Alfonso said.

Cainta, Antipolo City and Marikina City will also receive P250,000, P250,000 and P1.5 million, respectively. On the other hand, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority will get P1 million "to augment funds for their worthwhile projects," Alfonso explained. The remainder would have been the group's share. Initially, the group wanted to give P1 million each to the Philippine Brotherhood Youth Club and the NVCMAA. Later, they decided to give the P2 million to the government.

Right time

"This is the right time to give our government a chance," Alfonso said, adding that it was up to the President to put the money to good use. "We want to bring back that old Filipino trait of *bayanihan*, where one helps voluntarily without waiting for a reward," Gonzales added.

The "Pusong Pinoy" Boys are optimistic that soon, through their example, Filipinos would "re-learn" how to extend a helping hand without expecting anything in return.

No snags along Edsa for returning students

IT'S SAFE to go to school today.

This was the assurance Southern Police District (SPD) Chief Supt. Wilfredo Garcia gave to worried students and parents as police and crowds continued to flock to the San Carlos Seminary in Guadalupe, Makati City.

Samuel Ong, former deputy director of the National Bureau of Investigation, had sought shelter in the seminary since Friday after claiming, in a press conference, that he had the original tape of a telephone dialogue allegedly showing that President Macapagal-Arroyo had manipulated the last presidential elections.

"The situation in southern Metro Manila is very normal. It is business as usual here," Garcia told the INQUIRER yesterday.

He also said enough policemen were deployed to contain the situation outside the seminary on the corner of Guadalupe and Edsa, where curious passersby occasionally dropped by, and rallyists converged from time to time.

Around 240 SPD policemen had been detailed in the area since Sunday to control any disturbances along Edsa.

"We are doing what should be done," the SPD chief said, assuring the public that there was nothing to be scared about.

Traffic would be "tolerable" today, Garcia also assured motorists, especially for public school students who would be returning to classes tomorrow.

Jocelyn R. Uy

GOODBYE, SUMMER
A man takes a nap in a hammock along Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, while he still can before the rains come.
JOAN BONDOC

Owner of mystery car in seminary known today

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE WHITE car that had caused panic at the San Carlos Seminary since Friday was not stolen or lost, police said.

Police have checked with the Vehicle Information Management System at the Southern Police District (SPD) and found out that no white Mitsubishi Galant with plate number TSC-796 had been listed among the stolen or missing vehicles.

"We have verified the information, and the vehicle has been cleared," SPD police inspector Eduardo Tungol told the INQUIRER yesterday.

However, he said the identity of the owner of the car, as well as the baby Armalite or the M-16 assault rifle found inside it, would only be known today after a check at the Logistics in Camp Crame and the Land Transportation Office.

The police would check the car's registration papers at the LTO through its plate number, chassis and engine number.

Yesterday, a special nonworking holiday, police could only gather other documents pertinent to the vehicle and the rifle as government offices were closed.

"We are gathering the official documents, including the memorandum of receipt from which we would be able to trace the origin of the firearm," SPD Chief Supt. Wilfredo Garcia said in a separate interview.

Apart from the M-16 assault rifle, which San Carlos Seminary security officials claimed to be partially hidden in the passenger seat, no relevant objects had been found inside the car, Tungol said.

The white vehicle, which Samuel Ong's supporters suspected was to be used to trace the whereabouts of the former government agent, had been turned over to the SPD Anti-Carnapping unit Saturday afternoon.

Anti-illegal drugs drive enlists help of families

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE FIGHT against drug addiction begins at home.

Police and local officials in Mandaluyong City are encouraging families to cooperate in the fight against illegal drugs by reporting to authorities pushers and users in their neighborhood, or even those inside their homes.

As part of the drive, the entire family, and not only the drug user, will be required to undergo counseling, city police chief Ericson Velasquez told the INQUIRER.

"Nearly 90 percent of drug users brought to rehabilitation centers go back to illegal drugs. Involving the entire family in the counseling could change this," he said. The program relies heavily on community participation.

Residents are encouraged to provide information on the identities of users and pushers in their area to their local leaders, the police. or to the city's anti-illegal drug abuse council.

The council already maintains a database of suspected drug violators, Velasquez said.

He said drug users, whom he considers as victims, would be brought to a rehabilitation center. Their relatives shall also undergo counseling to prepare them for the day the user is released from rehabilitation.

Small-time pushers are first warned to stop their illegal activities.

But they would be arrested if they continue to ignore the warning, Velasquez added.

GMA should reinstate sacked colonel

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE PRESIDENT'S son, Pampanga Rep. Mikey Arroyo, has filed a leave of absence in the wake of his reported involvement in the "jueteng" payola.

Negros Occidental Rep. Iggy Arroyo, President Macapagal-Arroyo's brother-in-law, should do the same. He, too, had been implicated in the jueteng payola scandal.

Mikey and Iggy have become a political burden to the President at this time.

The accusations against them may have been fabricated, but the public perception is that they received jueteng money.

It's unthinkable why they, if the accusations were true, would dip their fingers in the jueteng pie when it caused the downfall of former President Erap.

They are either stupid or super arrogant. That is, if the allegations are true.

* * *

It's a well-kept secret in the Philippine National Police (PNP) that a certain presidential relative was responsible for the assignment of officers to areas where jueteng was rampant.

This was during the time of Director General Edgar Aglipay as PNP chief.

Although Aglipay's hands were clean insofar as jueteng was concerned, he gave in to the presidential relative's recommendations to have some officers placed in money-making assignments, according to my sources in Camp Crame.

Aglipay also allegedly gave his "share" of the jueteng payola to this presidential relative. Aglipay never accepted jueteng money even when he was regional director.

The agreement between the presidential relative and the favored officers was that he would have part of the payola the officers would receive from the gambling lords, my spies said.

I am not referring to Mikey Arroyo. Neither am I referring to First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

* * *

The only way out for the President in the "Tale of the Tape" controversy is to ask her colleagues in the Senate and the House of Representatives to have her impeached.

That way, she would have her day in court, so to speak.

If no legal action is brought to bear against her on the tape controversy, people will suspect her administration of a cover-up.

Ms Arroyo has come out clean in the jueteng scandal even if her close relatives have been implicated.

It would be good for her image if she would submit herself to impeachment, and then come out fresh and clean.

* * *

GMA's predicament on the jueteng issue was the same faced by former President Cory Aquino during her time.

President Cory's close relatives were allegedly consorting with jueteng lords or running the illegal numbers game themselves.

But *Tita* Cory never got involved in jueteng. She was clueless about what those close to her were doing.

* * *

The President will win the sympathy of the soldiers in the field if she orders the reinstatement of Col. Ricardo Morales to his old post.

Morales was relieved as commander of the 404th Infantry Brigade based in Mawab, Davao del Norte, for saying that the top AFP hierarchy had its priorities skewed.

He asked why there was a need to construct the 60-room Boracay military resort when soldiers were dying of hemorrhage and sickness in the battlefield due to lack of medicines.

Gen. Efren Abu, Armed Forces chief of staff, who has become notorious for allowing the construction of the resort and the P19-million sidewalk in Camp Aguinaldo, was raging mad after reading Morales' e-mail to his mistahs (classmates).

Morales belongs to the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1977.

Morales was just voicing the sentiments of soldiers in the field.

MARIFE Fajardo

MIKE Jhon Soriano

Marife, Baby Mike appeal to donors for medical aid

TWO CHILDREN need your help.

Diagnosed with chronic myelogenous leukemia, 12-year-old Marife Fajardo endures physical pain if only to continue her schooling. But though pain does not stop her from pursuing her dreams, financial difficulties just might.

On the other hand, baby Mike Jhon Soriano has been diagnosed with postmeningitic hydrocephalus. At two years of age, he is still unable to walk—doctors at the Philippine General Hospital fear he may stay this way permanently.

Mike's parents, Evelyn and Michael, have received this news with heavy hearts, and what burdens them more is the cost of their son's medication. Their combined income as farmer and market vendor barely covers the costs of their daily living.

Marife and baby Mike are appealing to kindhearted readers to help their parents shoulder the cost of their medication.

Interested parties may contact Marife at 0928-4224812. Mike and his parents may be reached through 523-3310 c/o Mauricio Paas.

Donations can also be sent to baby Mike directly through Allied Bank (Santiago City) to the joint account of Josiefina and Rodolfo Valdez, #0750117022.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2005
METRO
E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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Night of prayers ends in tragedy

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

WHAT began as a solemn occasion ended in tragedy for one of two women who conducted a long session of prayers and chanting the other night.

Residents inside a two-story house in Mandaluyong City were bothered by sounds that came from a rented room on the ground floor Sunday evening. Inside, two women were loudly chanting prayers.

When the other tenants came to check on the two yesterday morning, they found one of the women, catechist Paulita Bonifacio, 50, already dead, blood oozing from her head.

Marie Claire Ruiz, a nurse, was in a state of shock. Her hands and feet bore scratches, witnesses said. Both women were found naked, according to police.

Bonifacio had been renting the room on the first floor of the house on Sta. Ana Street, Barangay Plainview, for more than a month now.

She was seen entering the house with Ruiz on Friday afternoon, witness Fernando Quiambao told the INQUIRER.

Quiambao was with the family of Asuncion Gillego, 82, owner of the house, who had just arrived from the United States on Thursday, and was staying on the second floor.

The other night, as they prepared for bed, maids at the Gillego household had complained about the noise from Bonifacio's room on the ground floor.

"They were saying their prayers in a loud voice," Alice, a caretaker, said.

The neighbors ignored the loud chants, hoping the prayer session would soon be over. But the chanting went on, accompanied by the sound of objects being thrown against the wall, Alice added.

The chants persisted while the owners of the house were eating breakfast early yesterday morning.

By then, only one woman was heard chanting, Quiambao said. Curious about what was happening, he said he and Gillego peeped through a small opening in the wall.

Gillego said she saw a naked woman lying on the floor. Another woman, also naked, sat on top of her.

Shocked, the two decided to call Ruiz's father, Romy, for help. When he arrived, Romy went straight to the room and opened the door, which was not locked according to Quiambao, and saw Bonifacio already dead.

Ruiz was in a state of shock and could not give a clear account of what happened, her uncle Ding told the INQUIRER. "She looked possessed," the uncle said.

"Touch me, tease me and you will be saved," he quoted his niece as telling him, while she was lying on a bed at the Polymedic Hospital.

Ruiz continued to recite prayers while in the hospital, the uncle added.

Ruiz and Bonifacio were close friends, according to Ruiz's mother Imelda. She said Bonifacio was her daughter's tutor when she was in grade school.

Imelda said Bonifacio was very intelligent, but there had been rumors that she had gone mad.

"Bonifacio would tell people she could speak directly to God. This is why I had been telling my daughter to stay away from her," Imelda said.

Investigators could not immediately say what really happened inside the room as they were unable to talk to Ruiz extensively, police investigation chief Arnaldo Tarrayo said.

Hot weather only a lull in rainy season, says Pagasa

By DJ Yap

WHERE did the rains go?

If it seems like summer in Metro Manila, don't be confused. The scorching weather is only a normal "lull" in the rainy season, according to a government forecaster.

The sun may continue to appear in all its glory in the next three or more days, said Alma Ferraris, duty forecaster at the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

But Pagasa is also expecting rain showers and thunderstorms in some areas of the metropolis, the meteorologist said.

More rains will drench Metro Manila in July and August, the peak of the southwest monsoon season, Ferraris added.

Prevailing high pressure on the Pacific front is causing the sun to shine on northern Luzon and Metro Manila, she said.

The fair weather contrasts with the heavy rains that fell on Metro Manila in early June with the opening of classes.

With the weather seesawing from rain to shine, Ferraris advised students to take lots of Vitamin C and liquids, especially fruit juices and water. They should also avoid people down with the flu, or are prone to colds or coughing spells, she added.

LONGEST MURAL ON CANVAS
Young painters from the Metro join artists from the Kalahi Cultural Care-giving Program in expressing their love for country through the "Longest Mural On Canvas" project sponsored by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Culture, and the tourism department in time for Independence Day activities last Sunday.

Makati mounts campaign vs smoke belchers

THE MAKATI Department of Public Safety (DPS) will conduct intensified campaigns against illegal (colorum) public utility vehicles and smoke belchers in the country's financial capital next week.

DPS Director Herminigildo San Miguel said the city is coordinating with national government agencies and the private sector in the campaign, which was ordered by Makati Mayor Jejomar C. Binay.

Binay had said the move would address the issues of colorum vehicles, or vehicles without the required franchises to operate, traffic congestion and air pollution.

He cited the need to clear Makati's streets of these vehicles, as well as smoke belchers, whether these are public utility vehicles or are privately owned.

The Makati mayor also instructed the DPS to ensure that all offenders are penalized on site.

Drivers of colorum vehicles face a fine of P1,500.

Their licenses will also be confiscated.

Smoke belchers face a minimum fine of P1,000.

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GOLF: US Open Preview; 7:30 p.m.; ESPN – Get a head start on the second major event of the year.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Compiled by L. Manguiat

SPORTS

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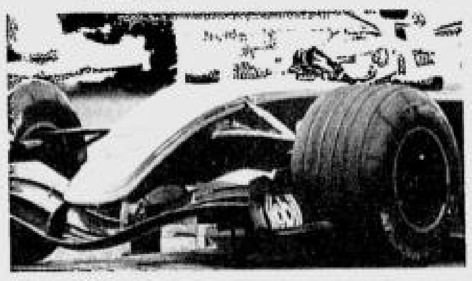
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Prolific Miller books new PBA record /A24



- Raikkonen tops Canadian GP as leader Alonso crashes out /A24
- Annika sets new mark /A25

- Spurs rout Pistons, 2-0 /A25

Paintmasters shoot for a sweep

AFTER settling for runner-up finishes in the last two conferences, Welcoat Paints is now eager to erase those heartbreaking memories.

And the Paintmasters want to do it in quick fashion as they gun for a finals sweep against the Montaña Jewels in the PBL Unity Cup today at the Cuneta Astrodome.

"We're definitely going for the sweep," said coach Caloy Garcia, who will try to wrap it up in Game 3 of the best-of-five series at 3:30 p.m.

The Jewels, who defeated the Paintmasters for the Open title just four months ago, couldn't come up with a strong finish in the last two games.

So they now face the tall order of winning three in a row to bag their second straight championship.

The task, though, doesn't appear improbable for Jewels coach Robert Sison.

"The team's morale is still high and intact," he said. "We believe in each other and I'm sure that our positive attitude would make us come back in the series."

In fact, Garcia agreed that the Jewels are capable of spoiling the Paintmasters' bid for their sixth crown in 11 finals appearances.

GAME TODAY (*Cuneta Astrodome*)
3:30 p.m.—Welcoat vs Montaña
(Game 3 of best-of-five finals)

"Montaña is a dangerous team," he noted. "Anytime, they can come back. They can come out strong and finish the game easily."

Garcia even cited the strong shooting performance of the Jewels, who uncharacteristically lost steam in Game 2.

"Despite losing their best player, they had a chance to win the game," assessed Garcia, referring to Jewels veteran Alex Compton, who failed to score in 10 minutes of play due to a sprained left ankle sustained during practice.

Welcoat pulled off an unlikely 65-62 victory last Saturday after trailing by as many as 18 points late in the third period.

Just hours after winning the Fantastic Freshman award, Paolo Orbeta delivered the key baskets in the 18-0 bomb Welcoat unloaded in the fourth quarter.

The 5-foot-10 point guard, who shot all of his eight points in the decisive run, provided Anthony Washington much needed help.

Veterans Jay-R Reyes, Leo Najorda and Eugene Tan also backed Washington, who sizzled with 18 points and 16 rebounds.

For the first three quarters, the Jewels seem headed for an easy win. Even with main man Jon Dan Salvador struggling offensively, the rest of his teammates displayed the attacking flair the Jewels are known for.

Eric dela Cuesta led the Jewels' backcourt, scoring 12 of his 14 points from beyond the arc. But surprisingly, their shots just wouldn't fall in the final period.

The Jewels also controlled most of the game in the series opener, but the Paintmasters proved to be steadier down the stretch for an 82-80 win. *Jasmine W. Payo*

V-LEAGUE

Ateneo spikers rip SSC; UST wins

GAMES THURSDAY (*Rizal Coliseum*)
3 p.m.—Ateneo vs. FEU
5 p.m.—San Sebastian vs. La Salle

By Marc Anthony Reyes

IT MAY be a no-bearing game, but Ateneo took it seriously just the same, slamming out-of-form San Sebastian, 25-10, 25-22, 25-22, yesterday to confirm its readiness for the semifinals of the 2005 Shakey's V-League first conference at the Rizal Coliseum.

Cecille Tabuena, Michelle Laborete and Amelia Guanco attacked with impunity to help the Lady Eagles' to their fifth win in nine matches.

The Lady Stags slumped to their third defeat against six victories but are nevetheless assured of a berth in the next round along with their tormentors, the Santo Tomas Tigresses and the league-leading La Salle Lady Archers.

In the second game, Roxanne Pimentel scored a game-high 26 points as the UST tarnished La Salle's erstwhile unblemished slate with a 28-26, 25-22, 15-25, 25-21 win.

THE TIGRESSES celebrate a point against the Lady Archers during their match at the Rizal Coliseum. RAFFY LERMA

The 6-foot Pimentel also had seven blocks to lead the Tigeresses to their seventh victory in 10 matches. Most importantly, UST spoiled La Salle's eight-game winning run.

Prolific spiker Joyce Pano had 13 points while the other half of UST's twin towers, Mary Jean Balse, accounted for 13 points.

Michelle Carolino led the Lady Archers with 19 points with Maureen Penetrante contributing 15.

The semifinal phase begins next week.

A topnotch beach volleyball player who once played for La Salle-Bacolod, Tabuena led the Ateneo scorers with 16 points, 14 of them on winners, while Laborte and Guanco added 12 and 11, respectively.

"This is like our warm-up game going into the semifinals," said Ateneo coach Louie Gepuela, who also drew inspired performances from Iris Renee Ortega, who scored nine points in two sets and acted as the spiritual leader for the squad.

"It's her best game so far and I'm happy she's slowly but surely regaining her old form," Gepuela said of Ortega who is one of the school's "reinforcements" for the tournament.

National team mainstay Cherry Rose Macatangay was the only one among the Lady Stags with the fighting mood, making 20 points, including 18 kills.

San Sebastian failed to get good performances from skipper Jennifer Bohawe and Jeanne Espolong, who combined for just nine points.

The tournament, sponsored by Shakey's Pizza, is also backed by Accel, Mikasa, IBC 13 and Jemah Television.

With a report from Karla Tricia Magno

RP's Manalo marvelous in Nevada tilt

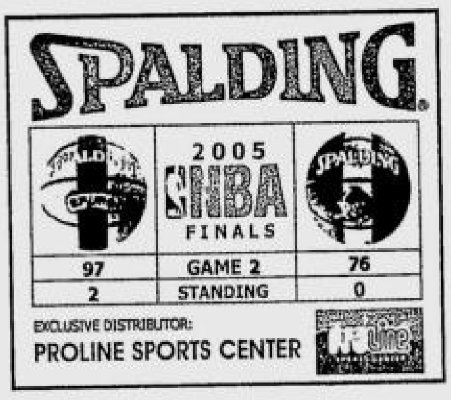
FILIPINO Marlon Manalo bagged the last seven racks to defeat American Tony Chohan, 9-6, in the finals Sunday and nail the 2005 Reno Open Billiard Championship at the Sands Regency Hotel in Reno, Nevada.

Manalo, the 28-year-old Economics graduate from Jose Rizal University in Mandaluyong City, pocketed the top purse of $12,000 (P648,000) in the tournament that lured some of the world's finest cue artists.

Chohan failed to sustain an early 6-2 lead and settled for the runner-up prize of $5,400.

On the way to the finals, Manalo took a bye in the first round then beat Danny Kuykendall, 9-0, Kings Santy, 9-8, Carl Wilson Jr., 9-1, Gleen Atwell, 9-5, compatriot Santos Sambajon Jr., 9-8, and Shawn Putnam, 9-7.

Jose "Amang" Parica was not as lucky. The 56-year-old who now resides in West Covina, California, absorbed successive losses to Jeremy Jones, 9-5, and Gabe Owen, 9-6, and bowed out of the title race early. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*



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PUYAT: Mockery

Puyat blasts BAP for defying POC

TWO-TIME International Basketball Federation (Fiba) president Gonzalo "Lito" Puyat yesterday lambasted the Basketball Association of the Philippines for defying the indefinite suspension imposed on it by the country's highest sports body, the Philippine Olympic Committee.

"The BAP is making a mockery of the POC order, which was unanimously approved during the general assembly, by reorganizing its leadership and hosting the Asian University Basketball Championship called the Carl Menky Ching Cup in Dumaguete," said Puyat.

According to Puyat, this is a clear defiance of the POC verdict. "Instead of appealing the decision, the BAP named former DILG secretary Joey Lina as president together with four others and pushed through with the Asian cagefest."

Puyat pointed out that the BAP is courting the backing of the Fiba and Fiba-Asia, which

PUYAT/ A24

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Ateneo-La Salle cage duel July 2

By Jasmine W. Payo

PAST and present stars from the country's fabled collegiate rivals will battle in the FilOil-Flying V Ultimate Showdown: Ateneo-La Salle Basketball Classic on July 2 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Four generations of Ateneo and La Salle basketball greats play to settle their decades-old dispute in the Legends (1960s-1980s) and All Stars (1980s-present) games.

"We will be reliving the rivalry and intensity," said Ateneo All Stars coach Fritz Gaston during a press conference yesterday at Kublai's restaurant in Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

"Ateneo is the favored team," said La Salle Legends coach Joaqui Trillo, who relayed his message through teammate Boy Manguerra.

Lim Eng Beng will lead the La Salle Legends along with Tonichi Yturri, Aldo Perez, Alex Marquez, Freddie Martelino and Edu Manzano.

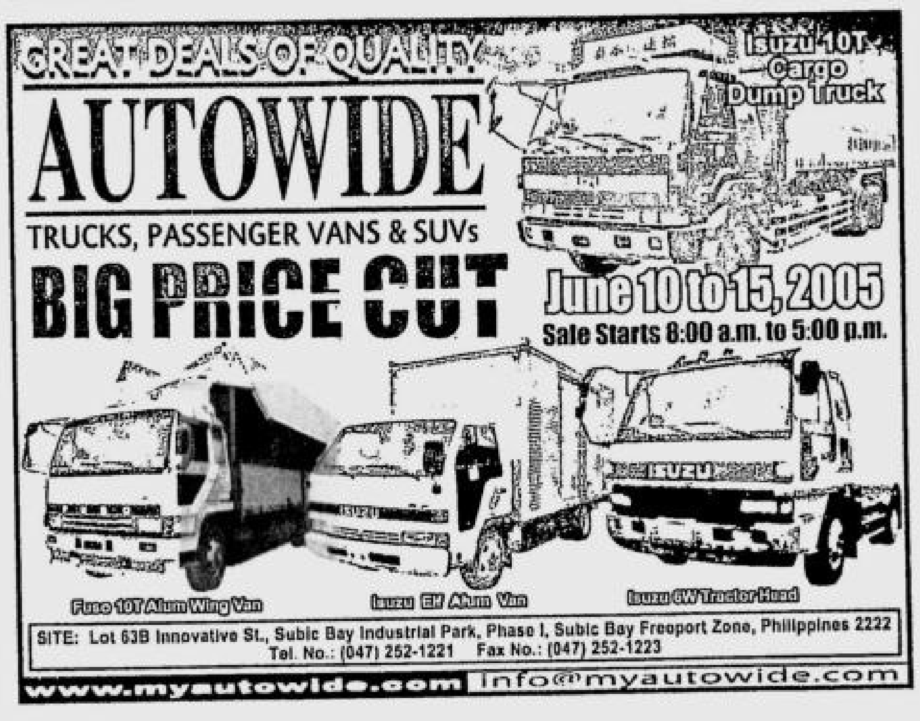
FILOIL / FLYING V ULTIMATE SHOWDOWN
ATENEO · LA SALLE BASKETBALL CLASSIC

LA SALLE'S Boy Manguera (fourth from left) and Ateneo's Chito Narvasa seal the agreement for a basketball showdown with a handshake.

Jojo Lastimosa, one of the PBA's all-time greats, will banner the Ateneo Legends roster, which includes Joy Cleofas, Ricky Palou, Boysie Henares, Chito Mistades and coach Chito Narvasa.

In the All Star match, PBL Most Valuable Player Mac Cardona, Dindo Pumaren, Dwight Lago, Jason Webb,

ATENEO-LA SALLE/ A24



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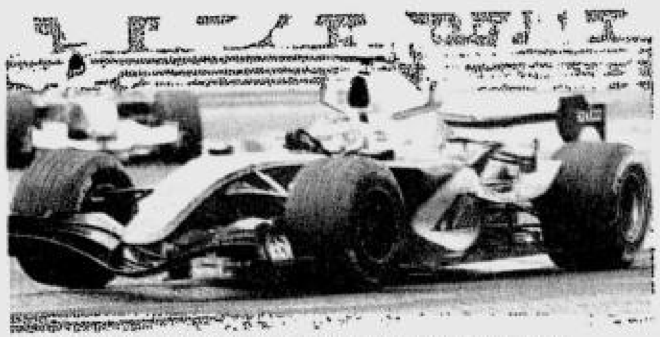
Raikkonen tops Canadian GP as leader Alonso crashes out



MCLAREN'S Kimi Raikkonen (foreground) keeps Michael Schumacher at bay on the Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve in Montreal. AFP

MONTREAL, Canada—Kimi Raikkonen gave his title hopes a huge boost when he won the Canadian Grand Prix after championship leader Fernando Alonso crashed out of the race here Sunday.

Finn Raikkonen made up for the disappointment of crashing out of the lead on the last lap of the last race with a controlled win in Montreal after seeing both his Renault rivals retired due to suspension problems.

The result closed the gap between Alonso and Raikkonen to 22 points and moved Raikkonen's McLaren team within 13 points of championship leaders Renault with 11 races still to run.

"At one point we were a bit lucky to win, but we were unlucky in the last race," said Raikkonen. "We got the 10 points back that we lost at the last race and we are back in the championship.

"We had a fast car but I had a small problem with the steering wheel. I asked the team what was going on and they said they could see the problem."

Raikkonen was never worried and eased home ahead of second-placed Michael Schumacher.

Alonso was left embarrassed after throwing away a potential victory when a simple mistake put him into the wall.

Seven-time world champion Schumacher gave Ferrari a boost when he capitalized on their rivals' mistakes to secure his second podium finish of the season after starting from the front row.

The German saw his Ferrari team improve in form this weekend thanks to developments on their F2005 car and from their tire suppliers Bridgestone.

The second-place finish pushed Schumacher up to fifth in the world championship.

Pole sitter Jenson Button was a high-profile loser when he crashed out of a podium place and Juan Pablo Montoya was also left red-faced when he was disqualified from a potential second place.

Rubens Barrichello started from the pit lane after failing to set a time in qualifying but good tactics and a strong performance allowed him to make it two Ferraris on the podium as he claimed third. *AFP*

Cebu's USC, Korean quintet in big starts

GAMES TODAY
3 p.m.—West Negros vs Xiamen U
5 p.m.— Silliman U vs Salazar Institute
7 p.m.—Myong Ji vs RP team (Exhibition)

DUMAGUETE CITY—Cebu City's University of San Carlos overcame height disadvantage with speed and shooting accuracy to stun China's Xiamen University, 82-69, Sunday in the YKL 4th Asian University Basketball Championship: Carl Menky Ching Cup at the Lamberto Macias gym here

Nino Ramirez had five triples as the Cebuanos shocked the Chinese, the tallest in the tournament with an average height of 6-4.

South Korea's Myong Ji University overpowered Silliman University from long range to prevail, 92-73, in the other game.

Ramirez, who as a child was taught how to dribble by his uncle, PSC chair William "Butch" Ramirez, finished with a game-high 27 points, 19 coming in the first half.

"We outran the Chinese and used the full-court press to keep them away from the shaded lane," said USC Warriors coach Jay Ramirez.

The Koreans, who fired 19 triples from the three-point range, also waxed hot in the perimeter area, converting 70 percent of their shots.

SPORTSWATCH

Figueroa on target again in Baguio

OLYMPIAN Jasmin Figueroa advanced to the gold medal match with another victory in the 1st evaluation tournament held by the National Archery Association of the Philippines (Naap) recently in Baguio City. Figueroa, lone adopted athlete under the Customer Contact Center's (C-CUBED) P3.2-million program geared for the 2008 Beijing Olympics, bested 2001 Southeast Asian Games gold medalist Purita Joy Marino, 97-96, in the Olympic round in a big follow-up to her earlier victory in the second qualifying tournament last May. Earlier, the Tondo-based Figueroa drew a bye and then defeated Edwina de los Reyes, 98-83. Rachelle Anne Cabral nailed third place after beating De los Reyes, 80-78.

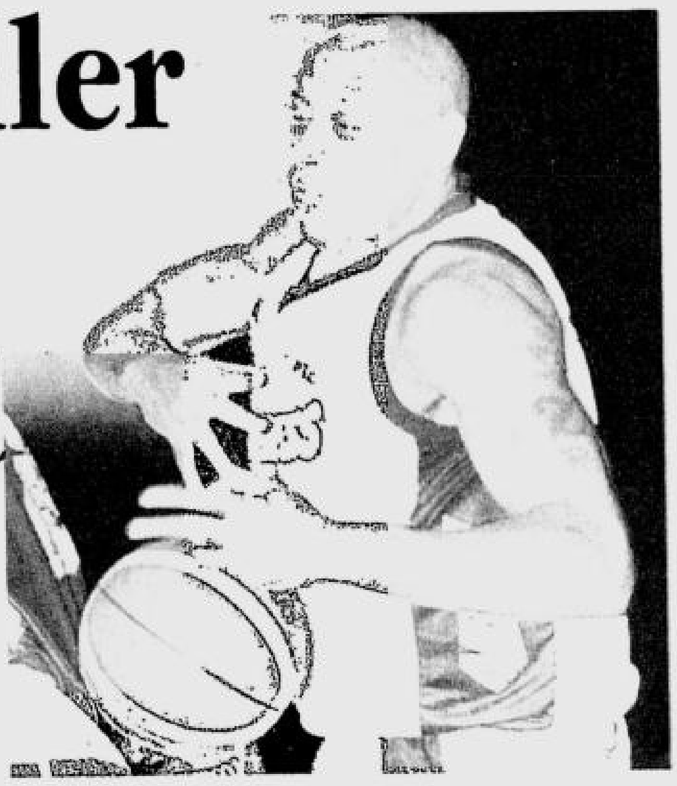
Gatchalian powers Filipino keglers

NATIONAL bowler Joonee Gatchalian of the Filipino team rolled 464 pins in two games to bag the Masters title in the recent 4th (Filipino Chinese Friendship Day) Bowling Cup tournament at Bowling Inn. Gatchalian, who spiced up his fiery performance with a perfect 300 game in the team event where he finished with a 10-game series of 2456, put together 228 and 236 to beat Chinoy team's Julius Sy (448) and China's Zhang Fengli (380). Vener Raesonda (Filipino team) checked in fourth with 471, followed by Feng Xiaobing (China) with 439 and Christian Kho (Chinoy team) with 397. The Gatchalian-led Filipino squad ruled the team event. The Chinese team was second with 2085 while the Chinoy team was third with 1765. Gatchalian finished with 290 points based on his game scores of 237, 209, 268, 232, 212, 300, 257, 228, 234 and 279. Other members of the winning team are Raoul Miranda, Vener Reasonda, Benshir Layoso, George Carino, Gary Custodio, Gerry Dichoso, Willie Natividad, Angelo Constantino and Marlon Embuscado.

Janiola stops Escaner in 2nd round

IBF JUNIOR flyweight mandatory challenger Wyndel Janiola knocked out Ricky Escaner with a punch to the jaw at the 1:33 mark of the second round of a scheduled 10-rounder headlining the Independence Day "Showdown sa Liloan" card last Sunday in Liloan, Cebu. Janiola thus boosted his chances for a crack at IBF 108-lb king Will Grigsby of the US within the year. Janiola's handlers are negotiating with the representatives of Don King, Grigsby's promoter on the possibility of a Grigsby-Janiola title showdown. In the chief supporting bout, Jun Pader prevailed by split decision over Greg Mangan in another 10-rounder. Other bouts saw Pingping Tepura beat Allan Dugang over eight rounds and Mercito Gesta knocked out Roldan Malinao at 2:46 of the 2nd round. Alvin Mundala and Dodong Salde fought in a technical draw at 2:50 of the third; and Roel Honor stopped Manny Pacquoan at 2:27 of the sixth. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

Prolific Miller books new PBA record



ANTHONY Miller, prime candidate for best import RUDY ESPERAS

By June Navarro

FOR SUSTAINING a "20-20 game" the entire conference, Anthony "The Pig" Miller of FedEx has written a distinguished chapter in the Philippine Basketball Association record books.

After averaging 22.6 points and 21 rebounds in all of the Express' outings, the former LA Laker became the first import in nearly two decades to achieve the feat after Alaska's David Boone did the trick in the 1988 Reinforced Conference.

But what's outstanding about Miller's accomplishment was the fact that the 6-foot-10 cager racked it up in 20 games compared to Boone's 13, making it the longest all-time among imports since the league's inception three decades ago.

"I never thought about breaking any record," said Miller after his hopes vanished following the Express' exit in the wild-card phase of the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference. "All I wanted was to win a championship for FedEx."

Coach Bong Ramos and the Express lost the decider of a best-of-three series against a determined Purefoods TJ Hotdogs squad, 94-86, to miss the quarterfinals for the sixth consecutive conference.

"It was a good conference for us," said Miller. "Coach Bong did an awesome job of motivating the players and hopefully next time we can get things done."

Miller and Chris Burgess of San Miguel Beer are the only two imports who have remained in the conference, making Miller a cinch for the best import plum.

The 6-foot-10 Burgess remains third overall in blocking (2.0 bpg) and rebounding (18.1 rpg) but worst in scoring (16.6 ppg) among imports.

"If you ask my choice for the best import award, my vote will certainly go to Pig Miller," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio.

"He's probably the best among the imports and at the same time FedEx has a great coach who did a tremendous job of turning that franchise around," Gregorio added.

Contented with just a respectable finish every conference since joining the pro league in 2002, the FedEx Express has transformed from perennial tailender to title contender immediately after Ramos took over the helm.

The Express wound up fifth after the classification round of the eliminations, the first time in franchise history that the team advanced past the preliminaries seated at the upper half of the standings.

RACING TIPS

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Race 2—1. Reigns Supreme 2. Wind Runner 3. Burst of Speed 4. Flying Princess
Race 3—1. Rose Bud/Candu 2. Tomoko Kirei 3. Somos O No Somos 4. Million Dollar 5. Red Heart
Race 4—1. Yokozuna 2. Sir Pierre 3. Ahoy My Boy 4. Native Prince
Race 5—1. Noble House/Something Silver 2. Decidido 3. Blue Face 4. He's So Lucky 5. Free Rein
Race 6—1. Casanova 2. Rockwell 3. Democrat 4. Cara Dura
Race 7—1. Fancy Dancer 2. Little Sam 3. Valiente 4. Western Dancer 5. Gutsy
Race 8—1. Legally Blonde 2. Magic Dancer 3. Tini Bambini 4. My Rabbonnie 5. Hazagone Babes 6. Aminin

Puyat blasts BAP for defying POC . . .

From page A23

used to be called the Asian Basketball Confederation.

"This act clearly contradicts the POC Charter because the BAP is encouraging foreign intervention in a local sports problem which the National Olympic Committee is empowered to resolve," he said.

Puyat noted that while the BAP is trying to clean its image by appointing Lina, Tanduay president-COO Wilson Young, former POC president Cristy Ramos, FedEx president Lito Alvarez and cager Jerry Codiñera as new officers, it retained the controversial secretary general Graham Lim, who is facing deportation.

The BAP's action, Puyat said, puts it on a head-on collision with the POC which has created a "basketball committee" tasked to form a new cage body.

Retired police general Edgardo Aglipay, who heads the POC basketball committee, has laid the groundwork for the formation of the Philippine Basketball Federation Inc. (PBFI) made up of local basketball stakeholders.

The POC is set to expel the BAP and then seek Fiba recognition for PBFI as basketball's governing body.

NOVICE MEET: Young swimmers limber up before the heats of the 100-meter freestyle during the well-attended Milo Novice Swim meet at the PhilSports pool in Pasig recently. Over 200 youngsters joined the competition conducted by Olympian Ral Rosario, program organizer of the Milo summer swimming program.

World Slasher Cup under way at Big Dome

THE EVENT billed as the "Olympics of cockfighting" unfolds today with a big international cast vying in the NCA World Slasher Cup 8-Cock Championship Derby at the Araneta Coliseum.

Hosted by Big Dome owner Jorge Araneta, Jun Santiago and Gov. Ito Ynares, the second leg of the world's biggest cockfighting event gets under way with the 2-cock qualifying round.

The semifinals is scheduled Thursday, with the qualifiers battling for the championship on Saturday.

Heading the foreign contingent are 2005 World Slasher Cup champions Joseph Wolcott of Alabama and partner Jun Santiago, Boy Marzo and Rod Barro of Dubai, 2001 champ Roger Roberts of Georgia, Johnny Moore of Tenessee, Larry Barleta of California, Mike Lanier and Richard Eary of Florida and Billy Johnson of Arizona.

"Twice a year, thousands of aficionados all over the country, even the *balikbayans*, pack their bags for the Araneta Coliseum to attend this one big showdown among the finest gamebirds," said Ynares, also president of NCA.

For inquiries, call 9113101 or 9112928.

Ateneo-La Salle cage . . .

From page A23

Jerwin Gaco and coach Virgil Villavicencio of La Salle will clash with Jayvee Gayoso, Larry Fonacier, Paolo Bugia, Rainier Sison and Sandy Arespacochaga of Ateneo.

There will also be a Legends two-ball shoot-out pitting the Archers' Kurt Bachmann and Ramoncito Campos with the Eagles' Jimmy Alabanza and Felix Flores.

The event was conceptualized by the Ateneo batch 1982 and La Salle batch 1984 in cooperation with Pure Play Sports Management.

From icon to idiot

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

WHAT would a Tyson fight be without controversy?

Dull. Boring. Not worth watching.

That's what's become of Mike Tyson.

Ever since he chew a bit of Evander Holyfield's ear almost a decade ago—was it 1997?—Tyson has become almost synonymous with controversy.

It happened again on Sunday in Washington DC when Tyson quit in the sixth round against Kevin McBride, whose supposed role was to make Tyson the best man in the fight scheduled for 10 rounds.

Although it was clear he was exhausted near the end of the sixth round, the 15,472 people that watched the fight at the MCI were stunned when Tyson did not answer the bell for the seventh round.

He had fallen in the sixth, but not from a punch. Although there was shoving after they had clinched, Tyson fell from the sheer weight of exhaustion and partly, not from McBride's punching but pushing.

Breathing through his mouth as the 11 months of ring inactivity began to show—Tyson last fought in July 2004, losing by fourth-round knockout to Danny Williams—Tyson collapsed like a drunk unable to control his faculties.

I timed him, and the clock said it took him almost 20 seconds to get up. When he did, he seemed lost, not knowing clearly where he was.

If somebody told him he was in a Chinese restaurant and he ordered sashimi instead of fried rice, you'd be a KJ if you couldn't at least break into a smile.

Before quitting, Tyson wasn't hit hard by McBride, who had been expected to lose mainly because more than half of the 33 wins he had scored were mostly against patsies, if not fighters plucked out from retirement to prop up his career.

Neither was Tyson got punished in any of the rounds prior to the sixth, although McBride did connect a couple of jarring blows in the third and fourth which were easily weathered by Tyson.

For almost the entirety of the fight, Tyson became the typical boxer from round one till the time he quit: He wanted to fight, but there wasn't any fight left in him.

His 38-year-old legs were now heavy as lead.

His 38-year-old fists could fly no more.

His 38-year-old brain could conceive, but the body could achieve no more.

He should have retired, have been retired, right after that eerie ear incident with Holyfield.

Why he was not suspended for life, banned from boxing forever, for that sacrilege to the sweet science is a blot to the sport.

Here is a man convicted and who served a prison sentence for rape, continually being paraded atop the ring even if it's very clear he has now transformed himself from icon to idiot.

Truly, America is the land of the brave and the free. Tyson is brave to freely unravel his stupidity this late in his career, a glowing career that began when he became, at 19, the youngest heavyweight champion of the world.

Truly, sociologists remained baffled, continue to grapple with words finding the explanation as to why people still come to watch each time Tyson climbed the ring.

After absorbing his third defeat in his last four fights, Tyson, now 50-6, said: "I don't have the guts to stay in the sport anymore."

If you can believe that, you should see a psychologist, if not a sociologist still willing to analyze the Tyson Syndrome.

Added Tyson: "I most likely won't fight anymore. I won't disrespect the sport by losing to a fighter of this caliber."

The gall to insult McBride, a 32-year-old Irish who might yet enter the record books of boxing as the one who sent Tyson to his retirement—finally?

Ah, but you are dealing here with a beast, a beast that, desperate to beat "a fighter of this caliber," he head-butts the guy when he couldn't land the big punch. That came after Tyson tried to break the left arm of McBride after twisting it real hard.

He said he "won't fight anymore?"

Didn't Tyson pocket $5 million for this good-for-nothing bout?

Wait till the right offer comes along.

Ginobili: Detroit's big puzzle

SAN ANTONIO—The defending NBA champion Detroit Pistons are heading back home to Auburn Hills 2-0 down to the San Antonio Spurs in the NBA Finals and looking for answers.

Not only are they hunting for reasons why they have been so badly outplayed in the first two games of the best-of-seven series but they are desperately seeking a way to stop Manu Ginobili.

The Argentine guard scored 27 points in his second consecutive dominating performance of the series as the Spurs crushed the Pistons 97-76 on Sunday to head to Detroit with a commanding two-game advantage.

Fans at the SBC Arena chanted "M-V-P!" when Ginobili was at the foul line and given his performances in the opening two games of the series, he is certainly a candidate for Finals honors.

However, similar to his teammates, Ginobili is unconcerned with the prospect of picking up individual awards.

"You appreciate it, it's beautiful," Ginobili said of the crowd's recognition. "But it's something none of us should be thinking.

"Once we are the champions we can think about it but right now, I'm not."

Quite a show

The Pistons are clearly thinking about Ginobili, who has been putting on quite a show at their expense.

"He's been playing great," Detroit's Richard Hamilton said. "The one thing we probably need to do is to keep pressure on him, don't let him do everything he's doing out there."

That is easier said than done, because Ginobili is acting as a field general on the court, setting up plays and when needed, doing a lot of the scoring himself.

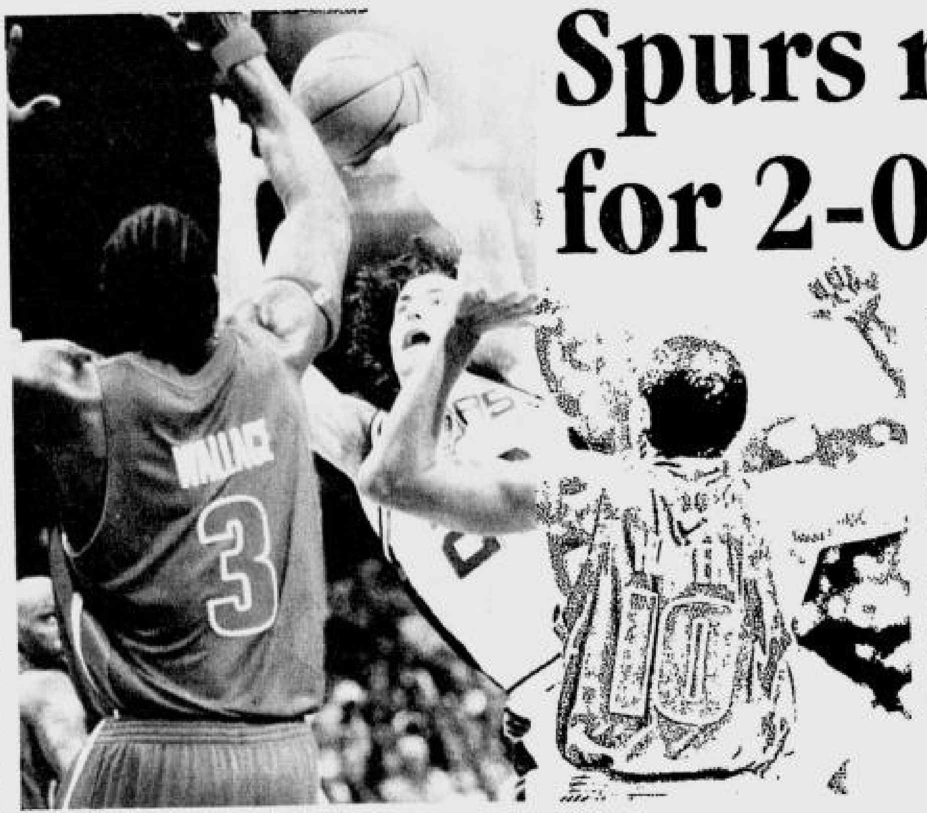
"Manu has been awesome," said teammate Tim Duncan, a two-time Finals MVP. "He's doing everything to help us."

However, the Spurs have the 2-0 series lead going back to Detroit for a lot of reasons, not just Ginobili.

For a team that prides itself on a well-organized defense, the Pistons cannot seem to contain any of San Antonio's attacking weapons.

"Our big problem is that we're having trouble stopping them," Detroit coach Larry Brown admitted.

Reuters



ARGENTINIAN Manu Ginobili (center) of the Spurs tries to shoot over Ben Wallace (left) and Lindsey Hunterof the Pistons during Game 2. AFP

Spurs rout Pistons for 2-0 Finals lead

SAN ANTONIO—Two steps quicker, two games ahead.

The San Antonio Spurs were at their best Sunday night in Game 2 of the NBA Finals, speeding out to a big early lead and frustrating the Detroit Pistons the rest of the way in a 97-76 victory for a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven championship round.

Once again, the quickness and creativity of Manu Ginobili was the one thing that stood out. But unlike in Game 1 when Ginobili took over all by himself in the fourth quarter, this time he did it earlier, too, and received plenty of help.

Ginobili scored 27 points with seven assists, while Tim Duncan was his usual efficient self with 18 points and 11 rebounds. Throw in Tony Parker being a speedy complement to Ginobili's dashing exploits, Bruce Bowen's 3-point shooting from his favorite spot in the corner, along with Robert Horry's effort plays, and this one was all but over by the time the fourth quarter began.

The Pistons did manage to pull within eight points midway through the final quarter, but Ginobili stopped them by drawing Rasheed Wallace's fifth foul, then coming up with a steal, an assist and several free throws as the lead quickly went back to 20.

Detroit guards Chauncey Billups and Richard Hamilton did next to nothing offensively for the first three quarters, and on defense they were helpless to stop the precision and shiftiness of Parker, the point guard from France, and Ginobili, the shooting guard from Argentina.

Opponents had been averaging less than 86 points against the Pistons in the playoffs, but the Spurs had everything clicking so well that they reached that number with 5:44 left.

Only two teams in NBA history have come back from 2-0 deficits to win a championship, which couldn't have been much of a reassuring thought for the Pistons when they boarded their plane after the game and headed back to Detroit.

Game 3 is Tuesday night at the Palace of Auburn Hills, and the Pistons are a long way from where they were a year ago when they split the opening two games in Los Angeles before returning home and closing out the Lakers in five.

AP

Ali surprises Tyson before Iron Mike turns into irony

WASHINGTON—Muhammad Ali surprised Mike Tyson with a locker room visit before what became Tyson's final fight, the legend seemingly knowing that Tyson would learn the hard lesson he had about staying in boxing too long.

The magical meeting of legends and Tyson's subsequent retirement Saturday after surrendering to Irish journeyman Kevin McBride following the sixth round defeat here brought a full-circle closure to a boxing era of greatness.

Ali dominated boxing in the 1960s and 1970s while Tyson inherited the throne in the 1980s, but both men stayed in the ring long past their prime, Ali paying a terrible price now by struggling to communicate due to Parkinson's Disease.

Just having "The Greatest" watch as Tyson had his gloves strapped on for the final time was enough to leave Tyson awestruck.

"I'm just overwhelmed this man knows my name. I can't believe he knows who I am," Tyson said. "I first met him as a kid and I've never forgotten it."

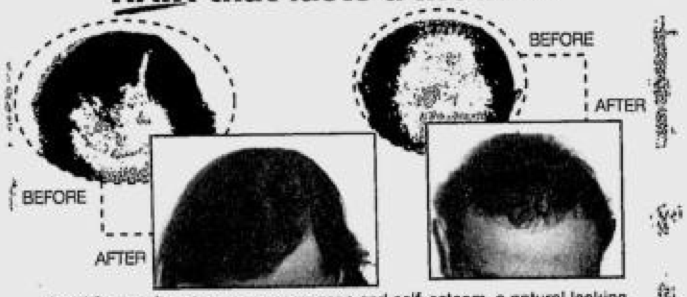
Ali was stripped of his title in 1967 for refusing to become a US soldier in Vietnam but won a Supreme Court appeal and reclaimed the crown twice before losing his 1981 farewell to Trevor Berbick.

It was Berbick whom Tyson beat in 1986 at age 20 to become the youngest champion in heavyweight history. Tyson lacked Ali's wordplay skills and persona but was "The Baddest Man on the Planet" by overwhelming foes for three years.

Tyson struggled through an emotional breakup with actress-wife Robin Givens and saw his ring reign end when 42-1 longshot Buster Douglas knocked him out in Tokyo in 1990, inflicting the first defeat of Tyson's career.

"My career has been over since 1990," Tyson said after losing to McBride. "I don't believe I can beat Father Time." Tyson's downward spiral continued. He was convicted of rape in 1992 for a 1991 incident in Indianapolis involving 18-year-old beauty pageant contestant Desiree Washington. He served three years and returned to boxing in 1995.

AFP



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Annika sets new mark; J-Ro bags ₱1.6 million

SORENSTAM

HAVRE DE GRACE, Maryland—Sweden's Annika Sorenstam became the first woman to claim the same major three years in a row as she won the LPGA Championship and maintained her bid for a season's grand slam on Sunday.

Sorenstam, five shots ahead overnight, fired a final round 73 to finish on 11-under-par at the Bulle Rock Golf Course, three shots ahead of 15-year-old American amateur Michelle Wie.

Filipino Jennifer Rosales carded a 74 and wound up tied from 16th to ninth at 287. The effort earned Rosales $23,899 (about P1.6M).

It was the Swede's ninth career major, her sixth title of the year and her 62nd LPGA victory in 11 years on the Tour.

She is now fifth on the all-time list of major winners behind Patty Berg (15), Mickey Wright (13), Louise Suggs (11) and Babe Zaharias (10).

Most importantly in her eyes, it was two out of two in the majors this year and the Swede now has her sights on becoming the first player to win all four for a season's grand slam.

"I felt a lot of pressure today and got a little shaky and very nervous toward the end," said the Swede.

"But I want to win all the majors (this year). I've worked hard for it and I know I'm now going to be under a lot of pressure at the US Women's Open (starting on Thursday week).

Sorenstam's victory was more comfortable than the margin suggests but it was still a glorious day for Wie, whose 69 left her on eight-under with a third top 10 placing in six majors.

Reuters

Garcia tops Booz Allen golf

GARCIA

TORONTO—Sergio Garcia fired a final round six-under-par 65 to win the Booz Allen Classic in Potomac, Maryland on Sunday and establish himself as one of the hot favorites for next week's US Open.

The Spaniard finished with a course record-equaling 14-under 270 at the historic Congressional Golf Club to claim a two-stroke victory over defending champion Adam Scott of Australia and Americans Davis Love III and Ben Crane.

The 25-year-old began the day trailing overnight leader Tom Kite, 30 years his senior, by two shots but mounted an early charge with five birdies and an eagle on his opening 10 holes to rocket to the top of the leaderboard.

With his first win of the season in sight, Garcia stumbled to the finish with bogeys on two of his final four holes, including the last, but held on to win the $5 million event.

As he walked up the final fairway the Spaniard admitted "having the ghosts of Wachovia floating over my head," recalling his dramatic final round collapse when he squandered a six-shot lead and then lost to Vijay Singh in a playoff last month.

Reuters

Federer, Sharapova take titles

LONDON—Defending Wimbledon champions Roger Federer and Maria Sharapova will begin the defense of their Grand Slam titles in confident mood next week after clinching repeat warm-up event wins on Sunday.

Federer, the two-time Wimbledon champion, made it a hat-trick of Halle grasscourt wins beating Australian Open winner Marat Safin of Russia, 6-4, 6-7 (6/8), 6-4, in the final.

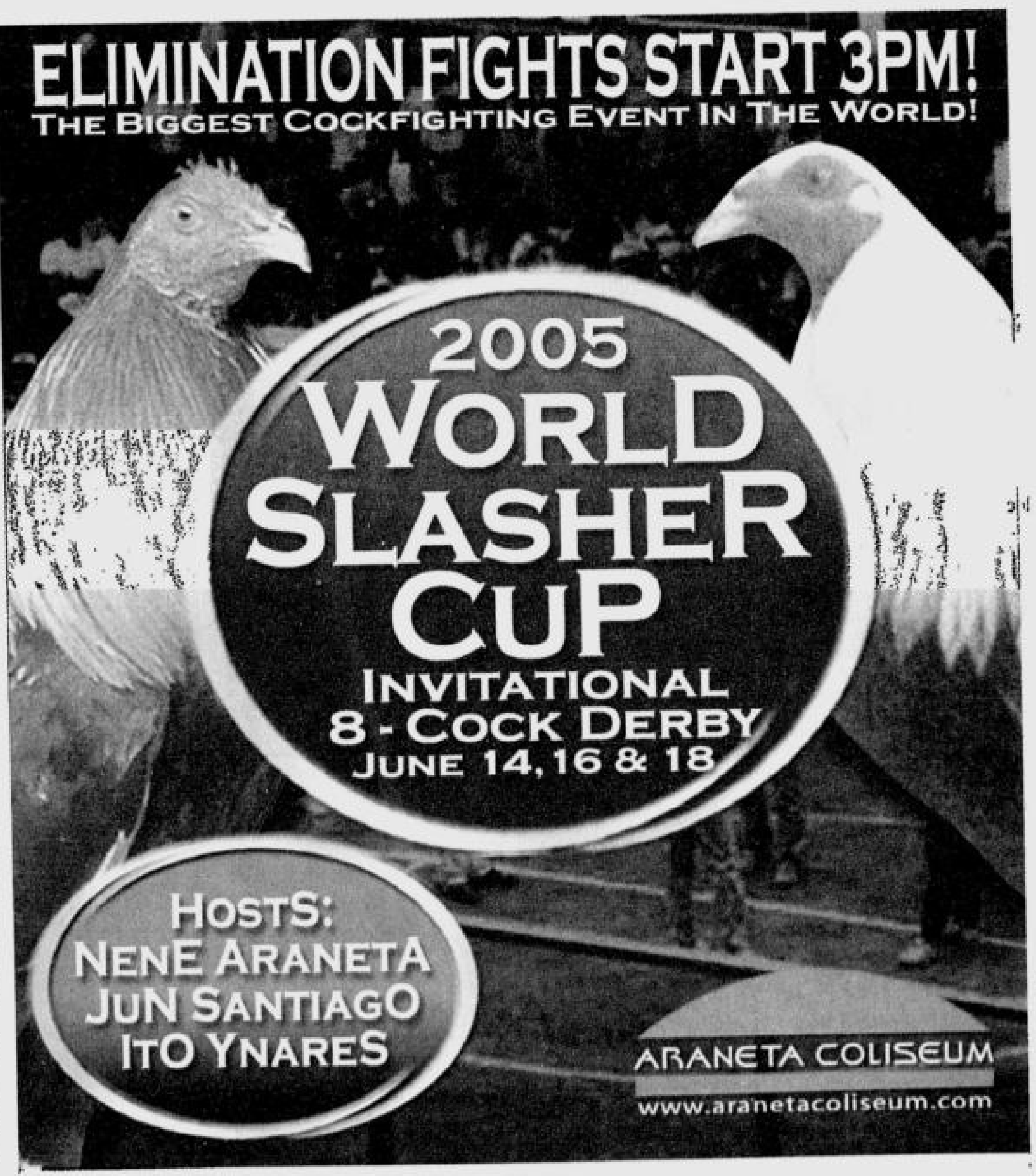
It was the world number one's 29th consecutive win on grass.

In Birmingham, the 18-year-old Sharapova clinched a 6-2, 4-6, 6-1 win over Serbia's Jelena Jankovic to retain her title and claim a 17th successive win on grass.

But Safin did enough to suggest that, despite his own reservations about playing on grass, he can still perform at a high enough level to worry Federer, the man he beat on his way to the Australian Open title in January.

Federer too has to consider the traditional threat from Andy Roddick, last year's Wimbledon runner-up, after the American cliched his third Queen's Club title on Sunday.

AFP



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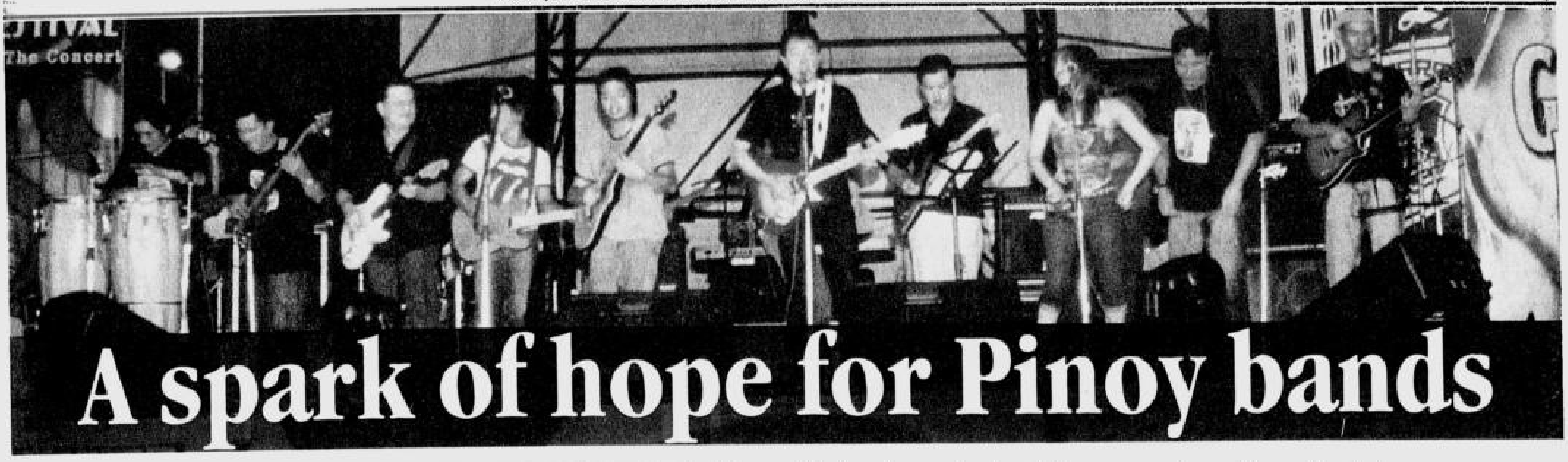

A spark of hope for Pinoy bands

Not all the bands in this recent guitar fest deserve special attention, but they all need encouragement

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

TEN years ago, the local band music scene saw its biggest explosion of talents who embraced what came to be known as Pinoy alternative rock.

The term "alternative" here is applied liberally—to make it easy to understand how the Eraserheads, Yano, the Youth, the Teeth and Parokya ni Edgar, for example, became rock music fans' groups of choice in the 1990s, in the same way that Juan de la Cruz, Anak Bayan, Sampaguita, Maria Cafra and Banyuhay dominated the '70s.

Crucial to the success of these bands was the support of radio stations that gave them precious airplay, especially in the early stages of their careers when all they had were demo songs crudely recorded on cassette tapes.

Keeping the spirit

In the '90s, the bands were lucky to have LA 105 and NU 107—two FM stations whose DJs truly believed in their music and lobbied to put their songs on the playlist.

MIGS Escueta

In the '70s, there was RJ-AM, whose jocks, particularly Howlin' Dave, championed the cause of Pinoy rock via the popular "Pinoy Rock & Rhythm" program.

LA and NU are still around, although the former has become an R&B/hip-hop station and thus cannot accommodate the likes of, say, Bamboo and other hot young bands of the moment. NU is hanging on to its pioneering rock FM programming, thanks to owner Atom Henares' youthful spirit.

More, better bands

Which brings us to RJ. In the '60s, it was the same youthful spirit that goaded Ramon Jacinto to put up his own radio station, dzRJ, which ironically soared to the heights of success when Jacinto was forced into exile in the United States following martial law.

Upon his homecoming in '86, Jacinto made up for lost time, taking a direct hand in running RJ AM and FM, and even opening the Bistro RJ chain of music clubs. However, support for local bands in his radio stations took a back seat and virtually disappeared, save for that lent a few select artists, including Jacinto's own band, RJ & the Riots, of course.

Whether it was a personal or business decision for Jacinto then, the reality now is that the presence and influence of new Pinoy rock artists can't be ignored. There is an altogether different batch of local bands in the scene, definitely bigger in number and possi-

A SPARK/ A29

SHOW TIME

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Kids' concert

THE CENTER for Pop Music Philippines presents two outstanding child singers—Mylee Matsuda, 9, and Elaine Valencia, 8—in a concert titled "Too Good To Be 2" on June 18 at the Insularlife Theater, Filinvest Corporate Center, Alabang. The show is directed by Butch Albarracin and organized by the center's Las Piñas branch.

Tonight

Daniel Bedingfield, the voice behind the pop ballad, "If You're Not The One," at the Araneta Coliseum for a one-night concert only. Call Ticketnet, 911-5555.

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8 stars and their dads

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

I FEEL a tinge of envy every time I see fathers and daughters who are so close to each other. My dad has always been an absentee father but that doesn't make me love him any less. I can only dream about being a daddy's girl. Now that Father's Day is just around the corner, I feel a strange longing for a father figure.

So I turned to some of the stars and I asked about the most important lessons that their fathers taught them. Yet another vicarious indulgence for me.

For those who are blessed with a father being around you, remember not to take them for granted. If you feel that in their presence you have learned nothing, in their absence you will.

Happy Father's Day to all the *"ulirang ama,"* single moms who also double as dads, surrogate fathers, "Papa-bles," and sugar daddies out there.

BONG REVILLA: "The best thing my dad taught me is to always be true to myself and to never forget my roots. He also stressed that I should be sincere and be the best that I can be. It's tough dealing with all kinds of people in show biz and politics but my dad's words help me cope with whatever situation I'm thrown into."

SUNSHINE CRUZ: "To forgive and forget is the most important thing I learned from my dad. That's what he did when I insisted on making sexy films even if he didn't want me to. He was able to forgive me even if it was hard for him to accept my decision. He was also ready to forget. After all, we're only human. We make mistakes, but the important thing is, we are willing to change for the better."

ANJO YLLANA: "My dad instilled discipline in me. Being the eldest of five boys, that helped me guide my brothers. That's why *walang salbahe sa amin*. And as vice mayor of Parañaque, I see to it *na disiplinado lahat*. I want my constituents to follow me out of respect and not out of fear or obligation."

MELANIE MARQUEZ: "I will always keep in mind what my dad kept telling me. And that's to be real as a person in order to be loved and respected. I may have gone through several relationships but in each of them I was real. Too bad it didn't work both ways, so my past relationships ended. But I remained that way as my dad taught me, so now I have finally found someone who truly loves and respects me for who I really am."

MARVIN AGUSTIN: " My dad taught me the value of family, decency and respect for others. That's why no matter how successful I am, I keep coming back to my family. Friends come and go but family is for keeps."

MARK ANTHONY FERNANDEZ: "My dad always reminds me that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. After going through rehab twice, I value my dad's words of wisdom even more."

DIANA ZUBIRI: "By leaving us, my dad taught me how to be strong and face all problems. I learned to live with questions that have no answers. Like, why he walked out on us and never fulfilled his obligations."

DOMINIC OCHOA: " Dad always reminds me to keep my feet on the ground! He also passed on to me his belief in the law of karma. What goes around comes around. It comes in handy in show biz, where people can easily take advantage of you without your realizing it."

For feedback e-mail wateringholeshangri-la@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com

Kurosawa award for Spielberg

TOKYO—Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi yesterday met with US director Steven Spielberg and praised the movie "The Last Samurai," the story of a 19th-century American military adviser who learns the warrior code of Japan's medieval knights.

Spielberg did not direct the 2003 film but was in Tokyo for the premiere of his latest film, "War of the Worlds," which features "The Last Samurai" star Tom Cruise.

Koizumi presented Spielberg an award named after late Japanese film icon Akira Kurosawa. *AFP*

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1:30, 4:20
② MR.& MRS. SMITH
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12:30, 3 30, 6 30, 9:30
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12:40, 3.00, 5.20, 7.40, 10.00
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7:25, 10:15
GP
2 MR. & MRS. SMITH
11:05, 2:05, 5:05
8:06, 11:00
PG-13
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
1:35, 4:35, 7:35, 10:30
PG-13
A LOT LIKE LOVE
12:30, 3:05, 5:40
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PG-13

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1:30,4:20,7:10,10:00
MADAGASCAR
GP
11:40,1:40,3:40,
5:40,7:40,9:40
MR. AND MRS. SMITH
PG13
2:00,4:50,7:40,10:30
SIN CITY
R13
12:30,3:00,5:30,8:00,10:25
A LOT LIKE LOVE
PG13
12:40,3:00

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PG13
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CINEMA 4 MR. & MRS. SMITH
PG13
10:55, 1:55, 4:55,
7:55, 11:00
CINEMA 5 MR. & MRS. SMITH
PG13
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7:30, 10:30
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10:05LFS/10:40LMF/12:40END
MADAGASCAR
11:10FS/12:40MF/02:40/04:40/06:40
08:10LFS/08:40LMF/10:10END
633-8976
sm megamall cinema 1
A LOT LIKE LOVE
11:50FS/12:20MF/02:40/05:00/07:20
09:10LFS/09:40LMF/11:25END
633-1901
sm cebu
1 SIN CITY
[illegible]
STARWARS: EPISODE III
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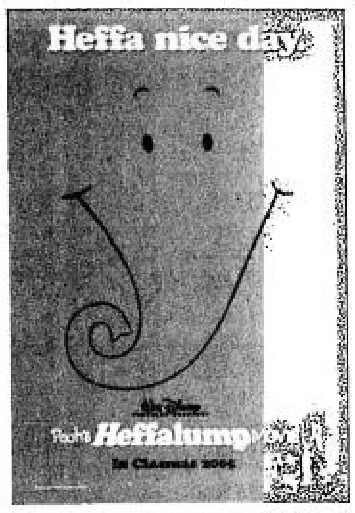

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A LOT LIKE LOVE
SIN CITY
MR. & MRS. SMITH
STARWARS: EPISODE III
CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
SHUTTER
8 ARE WE THERE YET?
SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
10 MR. & MRS. SMITH
11 PREMONITION
MADAGASCAR

sm city fairview
ANG LAGUSAN
2 MR. & MRS. SMITH
3 HOUSE OF WAX
4 STARWARS: EPISODE II
5 SHUTTER
6 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
MR. & MRS. SMITH
8 MADAGASCAR
9 SIN CITY
10 PREMONITION
11 UNLEASHED
12 A LOT LIKE LOVE

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MR. & MRS. SMITH
MADAGASCAR
CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
PREMONITION
6 A LOT LIKE LOVE
SIN CITY
8 MR. & MS. SMITH

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UNLEASHED
2 STARWARS: EPISODE III
MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH
MADAGASCAR
MR. & MRS. SMITH
A LOT LIKE LOVE
8 HOUSE OF WAX
9 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
10 SIN CITY
11 SHUTTER
12 PREMONITION

sm city sta mesa
MR. & MRS. SMITH
MADAGASCAR
STARWARS: EPISODE III
SIN CITY
MR & MRS. SMITH
6 SHUTTER
A LOT LIKE LOVE
8 SHUT UP AND KISS ME
9 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
PREMONITION

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MADAGASCAR
3 STARWARS: EPISODE III
4 MR. & MRS.S MITH
SHUTTER
6 PREMONITION
SIN CITY
8 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
9 A LOT LIKE LOVE
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SHUTTER
SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
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UNLEASHED
5 HOUSE OF WAX
6 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME

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MADAGASCAR
COACH CARTER
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 SIN CITY
5 MR. & MRS. SMITH
6 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
SHUTTER
8 STARWARS: EPISODE III

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UNLEASHED
SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
MR. & MRS. SMITH

sm city baguio
MR. & MRS. SMITH
MADAGASCAR
GUESS WHO
4 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR

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UNLEASHED
2 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
A LOT LIKE LOVE
MR. & MRS. SMITH

sm city lucena
MR. & MRS. SMITH
SHAOLIN VS EVIL
SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
4 STARWARS: EPISODE III

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MADAGASCAR
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH

VISAYAS

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SIN CITY
STARWARS: EPISODE III
MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 MADAGASCAR
BOOGEYMAN
COACH CARTER
SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
8 MR. & MRS. SMITH

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MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 RESERVED
SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
4 MADAGASCAR
5 STARWARS: EPISODE III
6 MR. & MRS. SMITH
RESERVED
8 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR

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STARWARS: EPISODE III
UNLEASHED
THE AMITYVILLE HORRO
5 MADAGASCAR
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sm city batangas
1 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
2 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 UNLEASHED

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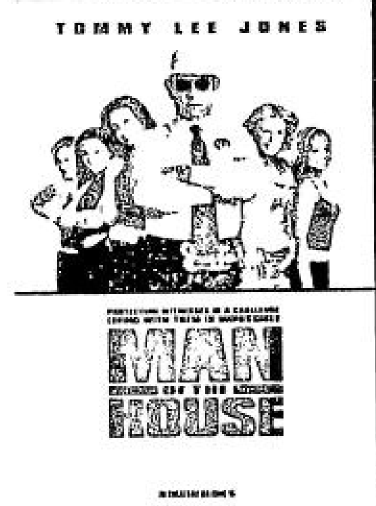

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1 MR. AND MRS. SMITH • THX
1:15 4:00 6:45 9:30

2 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

3 SHUT UP AND KISS ME
12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40

4 STAR WARS Episode III
12:40 3:40 6:40 9:40

5 A LOT LIKE LOVE
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

6 MADAGASCAR
1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

7 HOUSE OF WAX
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

8 PREMONITION
1:05 3:20 5:35 7:50 10:00

9 SIN CITY
1:40 4:20 7:00 9:40

10 SHUTTER
1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40

ERMITA
536-7809 to 12

1 MR. AND MRS. SMITH 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

2 SHUTTER
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 MADAGASCAR
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

4 PREMONITION
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5 SHUT UP AND KISS ME 12:00 1:50
MR. AND MRS. SMITH 4:10 6:40 9:10

6 A LOT LIKE LOVE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

7 SIN CITY
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 9:50

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1 SHUTTER
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

2 MADAGASCAR
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

3 A LOT LIKE LOVE
12:05 2:20 4:30 6:45 9:00

4 STAR WARS Episode III
12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00

5 SIN CITY
12:50 3:35 6:20 9:10

6 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
2:30 5:00 7:30

7 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

8 PREMONITION
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

CITISQUARE MALABON
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2 THE INTERPRETER
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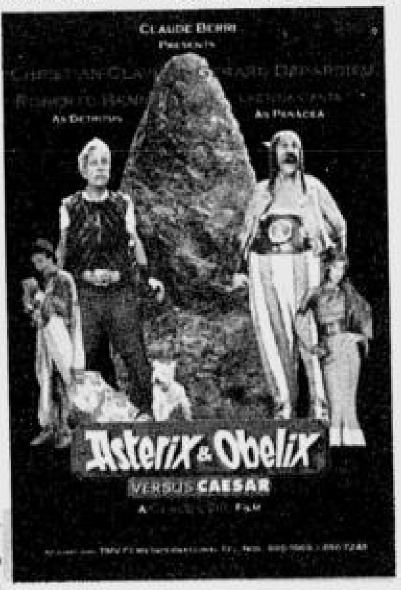

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G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 MR. & MRS. SMITH	2 A LOT LIKE LOVE	3 THX MR. & MRS. SMITH 12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:10, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 STAR WARS EP. 3	5 MADAGASCAR / MR. & MRS. SMITH	6 MR. & MRS. SMITH	7 SHUTTER
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 FRENCH SPRING FILM FESTIVAL	2 MR. & MRS. SMITH 11:05, 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX MR. & MRS. SMITH 12:40, 3:20, 6:00, 8:40, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX MR. & MRS. SMITH 12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:10, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	3 MADAGASCAR 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00 9:00 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 MR. & MRS. SMITH 2:20 5:00, 7:40 10:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 MR. & MRS. SMITH 1:10, 3:50, 6:30, 9:10 12:00 GUARANTEED SEATS		
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June 6	Indios Bravos Dance Performance (Greenbelt 1 Onstage) 8:30pm
June 11 & 12	Passage des Embarres Street Theater (Greenbelt 3) 2pm and 8pm
June 13 - 30	The Man Who Planted Trees Art Exhibit (Glorietta Artspace)
June 14	Indoor Circus by Camille Boitel (Greenbelt 1 Onstage) 8:00pm
June 17 - 19	10th French Film Festival regular run (Ayala Center Cebu)
June 18	Fete de la Musique (Greenbelt 3)

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Younger look to 'Magandang Umaga, Pilipinas'

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LAST June 6, Channel 2's early morning show, "Magandang Umaga, Bayan," was retitled "Magandang Umaga, Pilipinas," and we tuned in to see what other changes were in the works.

Well, some people have been let go of and new co-hosts have been added; the pace is generally faster; more "experts" have been tapped to cover specific topics; and the show feels younger and (dare we say it?) more wholesome.

That last observation is probably due to the fact that the show's main couple is now **Julius** and **Tintin** Babao, two responsible TV hosts who know what not to say on television in the morning, when many children are watching.

(On the *other* hand, the show has an occasional portion in which viewers' questions about sex are answered. While we agree that sex should be discussed, there appears to be a contradiction here, because the show is telecast so early in the day. Perhaps this sex Q&A portion could be put into another show on a nighttime programming slot?)

The show's "younger" look and feel is due to the inclusion of **Ryan Agoncillo** and **Bianca Gonzales** as co-hosts. It's a welcome move, because the Philippine population is generally young, so TV shows should be made more accessible and empathetic to this dominant demographic.

The show's brisk pace is similarly welcome, except that it sometimes results in the excessively superficial treatment of some topics that need to be given more airtime.

So, breakneck speed shouldn't be pursued in itself, and the show could occasionally take more time dealing with important issues that need longer and more substantial coverage.

The June 6 telecast was also guilty of overkill in its excessive emphasis on stories about school opening day. While the topic is indeed of special interest to parents, there were simply too many features about it, to the detriment of other topics that also needed attention.

All told, however, the refurbished "Magandang Umaga, Pilipinas" is an improvement on "M.U.B" so we wish the program well with its subsequent efforts of self-reinvention.

Fiesta San Miguel

THE FIESTA San Miguel restaurant and bar at Dusit Hotel Nikko (Pasay rd. corner Edsa) features these entertainers: Monday, Retro Night with Route 70; Tuesday, Men and Beer Night with Mocha with Spin Art; Wednesday, comedy with **Bernie Uy**; Thursday, Myxtreme and Silk; Friday, K24/7 and Passage, and Saturday, '80s Night with Kearney Street. Call 867-8888.

'War of the Worlds'

IN STEVEN **Spielberg's** new blockbuster, "War of the Worlds," **Tom Cruise** plays **Ray Ferrier**, a divorced dock worker and less-than-perfect father. Soon after his wife (Miranda Otto) and her new husband drop off his teenage son Robbie (**Justin Chatwin**) and young daughter Rachel (**Dakota Fanning**), a lightning storm hits his neighborhood.

Moments later, Ray witnesses an extraordinary event that will change their lives forever. A towering three-legged war machine emerges from deep beneath the earth, and before anyone can react, it incinerates everything in sight.

An ordinary day has suddenly become a most extraordinary event—the first strike in a catastrophic alien attack on earth.

Ray scrambles to get his children away, embarking on a journey that will take them across the ravaged countryside, where they get sucked into the desperate tide of refugees fleeing from an extraterrestrial army of tripods.

But, no matter where they run, there is no safety—only Ray's unconquerable will to protect his loved ones.

The contemporary retelling of **H. G. Wells'** seminal classic starts its run on June 29.

'Greatest Love of All'

EIGHTEEN of the best love songs are compiled in "Greatest Love of All," from Warner Music Philippines: "Beneath My Wings," "Against All Odds," "How Do I Live?" "I Will Always Love You," "My Heart Will Go On," "I Swear," "Hero," "I Turn To You," "Unbreak My Heart," "All Out of Love," "Hard to Say I'm Sorry," "Careless Whisper," "Take A Bow," "How Am I Supposed to Live Without" and "That's Why You Go Away."

'True Horror'

THE DISCOVERY Channel scrutinizes the supernatural world in its new series, "True World," premiering today at 11 p.m. The first episode searches for the truth behind vampires. Features range from the Black Plague link to Nosferatu, **Bram Stoker's** blood-fetish research, to today's vampire clubs.

A spark of hope...

From page A26

bly more skilled and talented than their counterparts 10 years ago.

Showcase gig

Although not all of the upstarts featured in the seven-hour RJ Guitarfest concert held recently in Makati deserve special attention, the fact is they all need encouragement. The significance of that gig—whose side purpose was to sell the latest models of the RJ guitar brand—cannot be underestimated. It is very important for young bands to know there is room, and a venue, for their music. Those who watched the parking lot concerts in the '70s at the old RJ premises in Sta. Mesa will agree.

These thoughts, if shared by Jacinto, may bode well in the light of his excellent position to help steer the course and development of contemporary Filipino music. He's still got his radio stations, and bringing back "Pinoy Rock & Rhythm" on the air should be cause for celebration. Surely finding sponsors wouldn't be a problem these days.

OPENS TOMORROW!
MTRCB RATING G General Audience ALL AGES ADMITTED
FREEMAN
BATMAN BEGINS

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
VERY HOT!
THRILLING AND TOTALLY SATISFYING! LIKE ITS STARS, THE MOVIE IS FLAWLESS AND FABULOUS! THE MOST SIZZLE YOU'LL SEE THIS SUMMER!
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WITH AN ASSEMBLY OF THE WORLD'S BIGGEST STARS AND DIRECTED BY AMERICA'S MOST CONTROVERSIAL DIRECTORS
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THE CITY IS UNDER SIEGE
BRUCE WILLIS
JESSICA ALBA
CLIVE OWENS
ELIJAH WOOD
BENICIO DEL TORO
BRITTANY MURPHY
JOSH HARNETT
MICKEY ROURKE
FRANK MILLER'S
SIN CITY
DIRECTED BY ROBERT RODRIGUEZ FRANK MILLER & QUENTIN TARANTINO

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Jane Fonda
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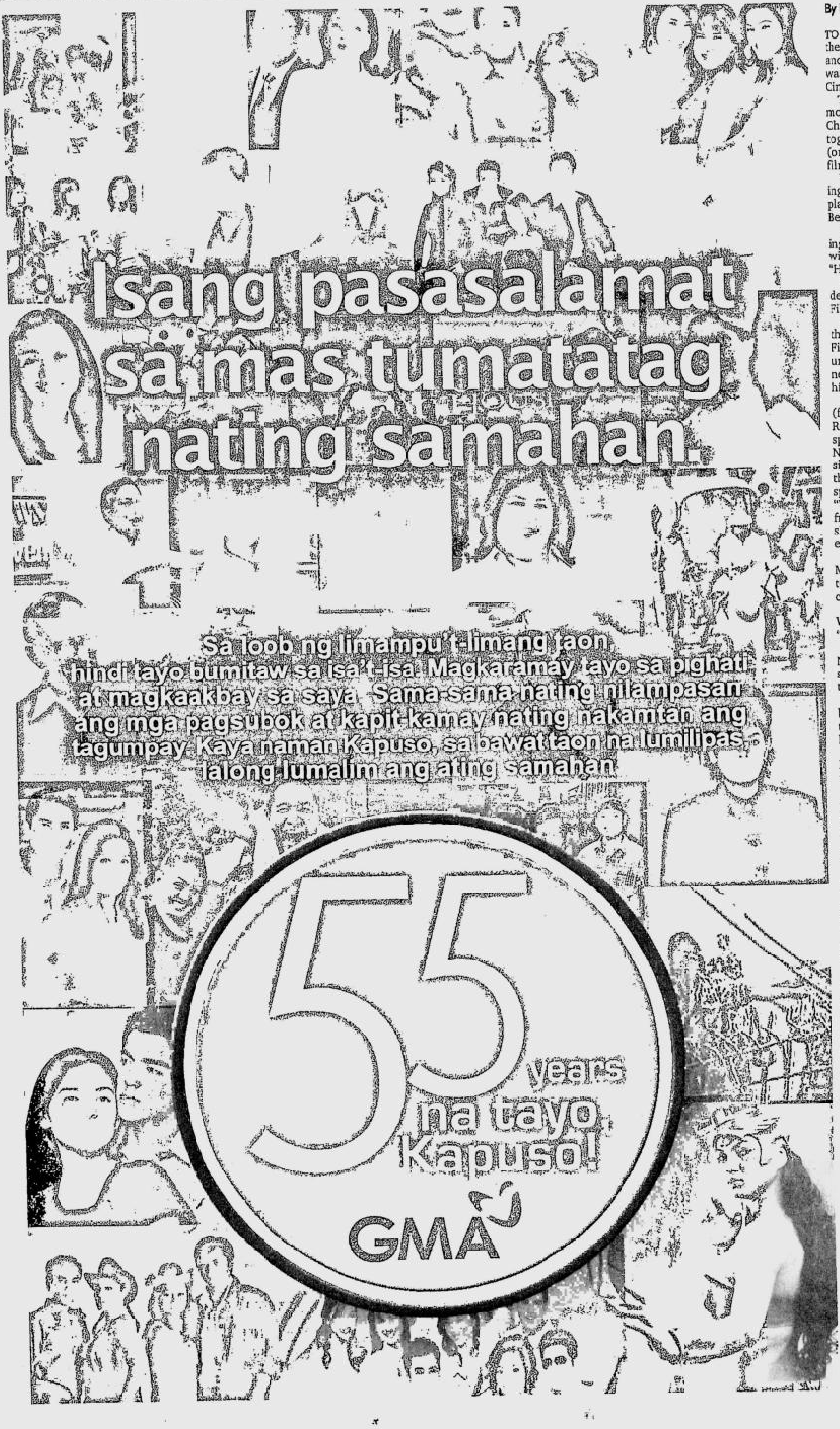
Isang pasasalamat sa mas tumatatag nating samahan.
Sa loob ng limampu't-limang taon hindi tayo bumitaw sa isa't-isa. Magkaramay tayo sa pighati at magkaakbay sa saya. Sama-sama nating nilampasan ang mga pagsubok at kapit-kamay nating nakamtan ang tagumpay. Kaya naman Kapuso, sa bawat taon na lumilipas, lalong lumalim ang ating samahan.
55 years na tayo Kapuso!
GMA

LIU WEI in "Gada Meilin"

TAKE FIVE

The Chinese Connection

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

TO COMMEMORATE the 30th anniversary of the diplomatic ties between the Philippines and China, the first-ever Chinese Film Festival was held recently at the Shangri-La Plaza Cineplex.

The four-day event showcased six of the most awarded contemporary films from China—with the sumptuously photographed "Gada Meilin" as the opening (on June 10) and closing (on June 13) film.

Directed, written and shot by Feng Xiaoning in 2001, "Gada Meilin" won Best Screenplay at the Xia Yan Film Literature Award and Best Picture at the Beijing Film Festival.

Feng was present at the Manila fest's opening ceremony, along with Liu Wei, his muse, wife, and star of his films (including "Gada," "Hands Up!" and "Basic Interests").

They were accompanied by the head of the delegation, Yang Buting, CEO of the China Film Group Corp.

Yang told INQUIRER Entertainment: "I hope the film fest allows Filipinos to further understand the Chinese people—our history, our lives."

FENG Xiaoning

National Artist (for Film) Eddie Romero said in his speech as head of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, the local sponsoring agency: "We could learn a lot from our neighbor, a sleeping giant and emerging economic power."

We take Romero's advice and engage the Mandarin-speaking couple in a five-minute tête-à-tête, with the help of an interpreter, of course.

What was the biggest challenge in shooting "Gada Meilin"?

FENG XIAONING: We shot four years ago. Now, it's nice to watch, but I still see many shortcomings. Given the chance to produce this movie again, I'd improve it still.

LIU WEI: First of all, I had to learn horseback riding. I also had to master a traditional dance—balancing a teacup on my head.

How did you get a rainbow in one scene without computer-generation?

FX: One afternoon, there was a heavy downpour. After the rain, the sun shone brightly and I knew a rainbow was forthcoming. I ordered the cast to get dressed quickly!

How difficult were the fight scenes?

FX: It was a good experience. I've shot many war films in the past.

LW: It was okay. Fortunately, I didn't have so many fight scenes. I just did my best pretending to be a good warrior.

Is being a husband-and-wife team boon or bane?

FX: We got married only after shooting "Gada Meilin." But at the time of the shoot, I was very strict. Luckily, she's an excellent actress.

LW: I don't think much about that because when we work, it's just work. He's my idol, but I also work with other directors.

Do you have plans of going Hollywood like (filmmaker) Zhang Yimou, (and actresses) Gong Li and Zhang Ziyi?

FX: We make films only because we love films. We welcome the opportunity to collaborate with Hollywood studios, but we don't aim for that.

LW: That's not our goal. We simply love making movies.

Who are the actresses you look up to?

LW: Pan Hong and Siqingaowa [who both starred in "The Ugly Woman"].

What are your hopes for the Chinese Film Festival in the Philippines?

FX: I hope Filipino audiences will understand China better since we've enjoyed a good relationship for over 1,000 years.

LW: I hope that more Chinese filmmakers will visit and make movies in this beautiful country. Of course, we will also welcome Filipino directors in China. How I wish there'll be more film exchanges and activities in the future.

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Grime does not pay.
FOR CLEAN EMISSIONS.
PETRON

RP to benefit from Japan-China row

HSBC SERVICE CENTER IN RP
Incoming Bangko Sentral Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. (second from left), HSBC Group Chief Operating Officer Alan Jebson and Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima break a clay pot to formally open HSBC's Group Service Center in the Philippines. Looking on are HSBC Group Service Center Philippines president David Sutton (left) and British Ambassador Peter Beckingham (right). *(See story on page B5.)*

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY stands to benefit from the escalating tension between Japan and China as Japanese investors are planning to move their funds out of China and into countries like the Philippines, according to Trade Secretary Juan Santos.

"The signal we gathered is that there could be shifting of interest from China to other countries like the Philippines because of the ongoing political situation between Japan and China," Santos said in an interview after his meeting with Japanese investors last week.

The trade chief met with the Kansai Economic Federation or Kankeiren in Osaka, Japan, last week. Santos said Kankeiren accounted for about 20 percent of Japanese investments worldwide.

The private, non-profit group counts 860 members from influential business groups in Japan.

He said Japan was a major investor in China. Japan and China relations have been strained recently and the escalating tension is affecting diplomatic ties between the two economic giants.

Kankeiren told Philippine trade officials that 80 percent of Japanese investors who have traditionally gone to China were now looking for alternative sites. Santos said the Philippines was emerging as a strong option.

Japan is the country's second-biggest investor after the United States. In 2004, it poured P26.6 billion into the Philippines, according to Santos.

In terms of exports, Japan has become the Philippines' biggest market as of last year while it continues to be the second major source of tourist arrivals.

"We are seeing a returning confidence of Japanese businessmen in the Philippines and they are considering increasing their investments," Santos noted.

Mining, he added, was an area of particular interest to Japanese investors.

"The Philippines is very serious in developing mining and we told investors that we are avoiding the mistakes in the past," the trade chief noted.

While in Japan, Santos signed a memorandum of agreement with Nagoya Kyoritsu Hospital that would allow the group to put up a state-of-the-art radiology center in the Philippines.

Japanese firm Kobe Busan also committed to invest $8 million to put up a production center in the Philippines that will supply the requirements of its regional shops. Kobe Busan is a supplier to hotels and restaurants.

Toku Sheia, which owns more than 50 hospitals in Japan, is also looking at potential investments in the Philippines, added Santos.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

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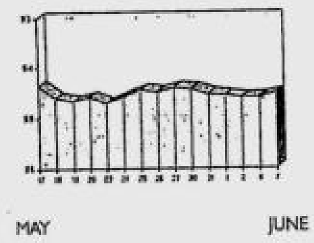


P 55.200 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., June 10, 2005

¥ 107.[illegible] = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., June 10, 2005

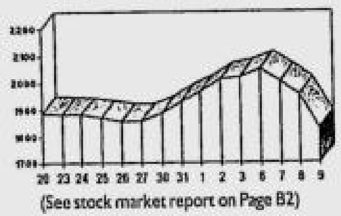
GOLD: $422.90-423.40
As of 5 p.m., June 10, 2005

June 13, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.817929	1.000000	54.8590
Japan	Yen	0.007616	0.009311	0.5108
United Kingdom	Pound	1.489612	1.821200	99.9092
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.105129	0.128531	7.0511
Switzerland	Franc	0.651736	0.796813	43.7124
Canada	Dollar	0.650959	0.795862	43.6602
Singapore	Dollar	0.491514	0.600925	32.9661
Australia	Dollar	0.627680	0.767401	42.0989
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.169630	2.652590	145.5184
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.218115	0.266667	14.6291
Brunei	Dollar	0.490042	0.599125	32.8674
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000104	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.020136	0.024618	1.3505
UAE	Dirham	0.222705	0.272279	14.9370
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.222600	67.0706
Argentina	Peso	0.282531	0.345423	18.9496
Brazil	Real	0.328684	0.401849	22.0450
Denmark	Kroner	0.134340	0.164244	9.0103
India	Rupee	0.018816	0.023004	1.2620
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215273	0.263193	14.4385
Mexico	New Peso	0.075191	0.091929	5.0431
New Zealand	Dollar	0.582280	0.711896	39.0539
Norway	Kroner	0.126570	0.154744	8.4891
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013724	0.016779	0.9205
South Africa	Rand	0.121607	0.148677	8.1563
Korea	Won	0.000815	0.000997	0.0547
Syria	Pound	0.015757	0.019264	1.0568
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026140	0.031959	1.7532

STOCK MARKET

Lackluster trading seen

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

LACKLUSTER trading is expected when the market reopens today after a long weekend break.

Traders said investors remained reluctant to return to the market, worried about the political situation after the opposition called on President Arroyo to resign amid renewed allegations—which she denies—of fraud during last year's elections.

Coup rumors have also been circulating and Ms Arroyo has vowed to fight back against those trying to topple her administration.

Share prices closed 2.05 percent higher last Friday on a technical bounce after three days of sharp falls as concerns over rumors of a coup attempt against President Gloria Arroyo remained, dealers said.

AFP

WHAT'S INSIDE

Transco, CDC to contain power fluctuations in Clark /B3

Opec seen maintaining production /B4

Zero VAT on power seen to stimulate investments /B5

WB proposing reforms in pension fund system /B8

AMID POLITICAL NOISE

Economic team all set for roadshow

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT'S economic team is all set for the international roadshow this month, hoping to convince foreign investors that the Philippines is on track to meet its economic and fiscal targets despite volatility on the political front.

Amid scandals hounding the Arroyo administration, including allegations that the President cheated in the elections and that her family was involved in the illegal jueteng operations, the peso plummeted back to the 55-to-a-dollar level last week. The peso closed at 55.90 to a dollar on Friday.

The recent peso depreciation partly wiped out gains from fiscal reforms and positive developments in the mining industry, which early this year helped the local currency recover from an average of 56.04 to a dollar in 2004.

But Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, spokesperson of the economic team, said the group was optimistic that the economy would not be substantially hurt by the current political noise. He said the team would tell American and European investors that the country was still well on track to meet its development targets.

"Politics is always a sidelight of things in the Philippines. What's important is that business continues to conduct business. We remain bullish about the country," Purisima told reporters yesterday after the opening ceremony for the service center of Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corp. (HSBC).

Purisima said the target of reducing the budget deficit this year to P180 billion or below remained achievable, and that investments were still expected to stay healthy.

"Businessmen will see through this noise. This (political noise) only shows that we are a mature democracy. The more issues are discussed and cleared, the better," he said.

The roadshow, which will run for a week and a half starting June 21, will cover cities in Europe and the United States. The roadshow, which was planned before the controversies hounding the Arroyo administration hogged the limelight, was intended to update foreign investors on positive developments in the Philippine fiscal sector.

The roadshow will be led by officials from the Department of Finance and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The updates will include the passage of the value-added tax bill and administrative measures to improve revenue collection, as well as improvements in the government's fiscal health. Last April, the national government posted a one-month budget surplus of P3.3 billion, the first recorded surplus in four years.

Economic officials were hoping the roadshow would pave the way for a positive market response to the government's planned foreign borrowings before the end of the year. But investors are expected to question the sustainability of fiscal reforms in the Philippines, considering current political jitters caused by calls for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to step down.

The government still needs to borrow $850 million from commercial sources this year to complete its $4-billion foreign borrowing requirement for 2004.

Of the $4 billion, $3.1 billion will come from commercial sources (through bond floats), while $900 million will be come from official development assistance.

Four Seasons eyes Palawan, Bohol, Cebu

FOUR Seasons, one of the world's biggest hotel and resort chains, is planning to put up a luxury hotel in one of the Philippines' major resort destinations, according to Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano.

The tourism chief said the upscale hotel chain operating in 66 destinations in 29 countries was looking at Cebu, Bohol or Palawan for its first venture in the Philippines.

The entry of Four Seasons as well as the expansion of the likes of Shangri-La Hotel and Discovery Suites will help address the rising shortage in accommodations in the country's major tourist destinations.

Durano said there were about 24,000 rooms for tourist accommodations all over the country. He projected that by 2007, there would be an additional 1,000 rooms.

"We have a shortage in room capacity. There is now more demand that supply. It has really become a seller's market for our tourist operators, particularly the hotels in key local destinations," the tourism chief said.

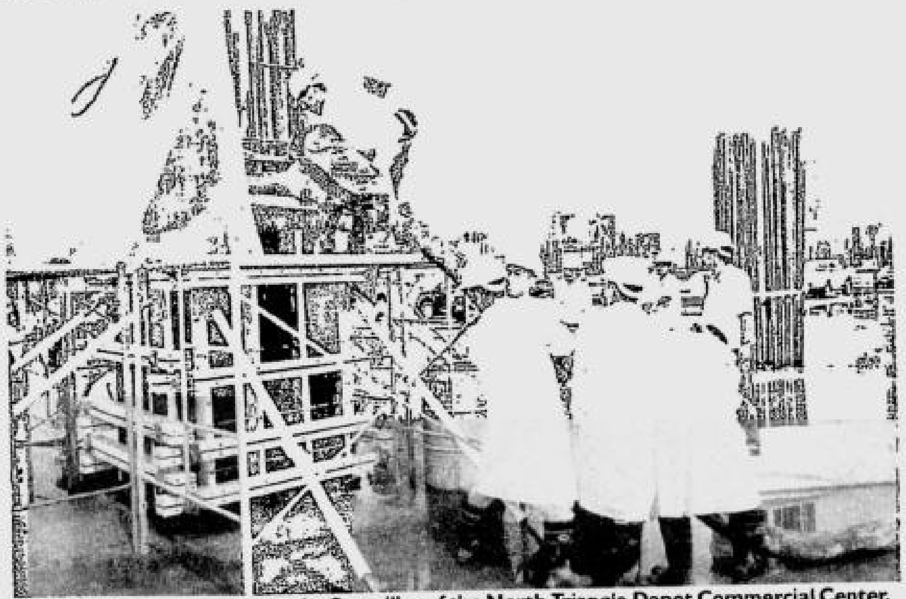
Durano said 90 percent of foreign visitors preferred to stay in four- and five-star hotels. It takes about two years from groundbreaking before a major hotel can start operations.

He said hotels in Metro Manila and in Cebu have been beefing up their supply to factor in the projected increase in arrivals this year to 3 million and to 5 million by 2010.

Shangri-La is expanding its facility in Mactan, Cebu, and is putting up a resort hotel in Boracay.

Shangri-La's Chi Spa will open this month in Cebu. Durano said this would be the biggest spa facility in Southeast Asia. He said Shangri-

FOUR/ B2



WORKERS pour concrete on the first pillar of the North Triangle Depot Commercial Center, the future super-regional mall and inter-modal transport hub in Quezon City.

Ayala starts construction of North Triangle Depot mall

NORTH Triangle Depot Commercial Corp. (NTDCC), a consortium led by Ayala Land Inc. (ALI), has started construction activities for a commercial center at the North Triangle Depot of MRT-3 in ceremonies that saw the pouring of concrete on the first pillar of the future super-regional mall.

The project will involve the development of an integrated retail center with around 204,000 square meters of gross leasable area--a major component of ALI's experience in shopping center operations, and will incorporate new concepts and special zones that will make the new mall unique.

Aside from Ayala Land, NTDCC's other shareholders include Anglo-Phil Holdings Corp., Ramcar Inc., Sheridan Holdings Inc., DBH Inc. and Allante Realty and Development Corp. State-owned Development Bank of the Philippines and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. provided a P3-billion loan to partially finance the construction of the project.

ALI said that essential to the new mall was its direct connection to the MRT-3 North Avenue station. The mall will also have a new public transport terminal to be developed within the depot site to accommodate various other modes of public commuting. These will make the commercial center a major inter-

AYALA/ B2

Independence they

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

DOWN here in our barangay, even after the rah-rah-rah of this cute administration during the Independence Day celebration, we still fuss over every news item about our multibillion-peso investment in Equitable PCI bank.

After all, our pension funds SSS and GSIS poured into the bank only P16 billion of our retirement money, and we have nothing to show for it.

Based on word going around in banking, one of the so-called "independent" directors is telling everybody that he will go straight to Gloriaetta in Malacañang.

The director was said to be an exact lookalike of former Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto Romulo, who claims to sit on the board as one of four "independent" directors.

If that is true, that the "independent" director is threatening to go straight to Gloriaetta, he must be sending a message to the other board members, particularly those from the SSS and the GSIS.

And the message is that he is really close—as in "face-to-face-if-I-want-to" close—to Gloriaetta.

To take it further, the other government guys should better behave and do as he tells them. Look, boss, it's as if she will just see him anytime. Something like that!

Believe me, not even the close-in guys in Malacañang, who already know everything Gloriaetta does, claim to be, well, so "rubbing-elbows" close to her, that they could already visit her molars.

***

BASED on whispers in the corridors of Equitable PCI, the "independent" director is after this nuisance named Fulgencio Factoran Jr., himself a former Cabinet member.

Factoran sits on the board of the bank as a representative of the government. He has been critical of what he had called the Go family's "vise-like grip" on the bank.

And that, mind you, despite the fact that the Go family only owns 25 percent of the bank, as against the close to 40-percent holdings of the SSS and the GSIS!

For the sake of the action stars in the Senate, the Go family and their "allies" in the board, who are masquerading as "independent" directors, are locked in a battle royale with the SSS and the GSIS for control of the bank.

Factoran and company were trying to prevent the Go group from getting more seats on the board than the Go family was entitled to, based on their 25-percent holdings.

Personally, Factoran has put on record some of his observations, and of course objections, regarding the Go group's "dirty tactics" in the election of board members. Of particular interest to Factoran were the Go group's moves to railroad—again—the election of the new board during the annual stockholders meeting this July.

And that's why our beloved "independent" director, who looks exactly like Bob Romulo, is said to be after Factoran's head.

Supposedly, he is asking Gloriaetta personally to make Factoran shut up, or something bad like that, which is of course "bad" for us, the hapless members of the SSS and the GSIS.

It is, however, very, very good for the Go family!

***

EARLIER, anyway, word already reached some officials of the SSS and the GSIS that an "independent" director also personally called up Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima.

The Finance Secretary, for the sake of Lito and Bong, is the Cabinet member in charge of both the SSS and the GSIS.

News broke out that, this time, with him at Finance, Purisima wants the government-run pension funds SSS and GSIS to get all their seven seats on the board.

Romulo reportedly called up Purisima, insisting that the government was only entitled to five board seats.

Now, if I know this guy Purisima, he is not easily cowed by "independent" directors, no matter their pedigree. He will fight for what is right and just regarding our investments in Equitable PCI.

In the first place, Gloriaetta herself has no love lost for the Go family. They were only able to muscle their way into our pension funds—some P16 billion in all—during the time of the man named Band ... Wrist Band.

Why will the beleaguered Gloriaetta, if she is not crazy at all, want to favor the Go family over the SSS and the GSIS?

Is she willing to risk our funds, perhaps for the sake of an "independent" director, who is said to have been dropping her name more often than Wrist Band has been dropping his pants?

***

IF THE REPORTS are true, and the "independent" director is telling guys over at the Equitable PCI board about his forthcoming visit to Malacañang, I sense a lot of confidence in the man.

Does the "independent" director have an "ace?" Well, the uncharitable word going around is that a member of the First Family works in one of the "foundations" associated with the "independent" director.

That, as I said, is the unkind word going around. For all we know, somebody is just using that special member of the First Family, and if talk is to be believed, the poor person is actually as straight as an arrow.

But the real question is, with scandal after scandal thrown at the doorstep of this cute administration, can Gloriaetta still afford to involve another member her family, particularly if it is a monstrous issue over our pension money—only P16 billion of it?

***

LIKE it or not, if Gloriaetta does not step in, thereby preventing the SSS and the GSIS from exercising their rights as stockholders of Equitable PCI, the battle for control of the board will be fought in the legal arena—not in Malacañang.

And on that score, from what I gathered, the government side is rather confident of giving the Go group a good fight.

For instance, the government side already made noise about the "corporate secretary," who is a

BREAKTIME/B5

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CELEB SPORTS	140K	STA. ELENA 'B'	1.58M	STA ELENA 'B'	1.5M
MKTI SPORTS 'A'	Call now	S'WOODS B	600K	S'WOODS 'A'	350K
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CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B*	1,050,000	1,000,000
Alta Vista Corp	-	220,000
Baguio Country Club	550,000	520,000
Calatagan Golf	40,000	-
Camp John Hay	180,000	-
Canyon Woods	125,000	-
Capitol Hills	90,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,400,000	-
Celebrity Sports	120,000	100,000
City Sports Club Cebu	Pls. Call	-
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	200,000/250,000*/Pls. Call**	-
Eastridge A/B*	Pls. Call	-
Evercrest	70,000	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	130,000/200,000*	-
Luisita Golf	300,000	-
Manila Golf Corporate	11,500,000	-
Manila Golf Individual	11,400,000	-
Manila Polo	2,200,000	2,075,000
Manila Southwoods A/B*	400,000/700,000*	370,000
Makati Sports Club	210,000	190,000
Metropolitan Club A/B*	120,000/150,000*	-
Mimosa C2/C3*	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Mt. Malarayat A	220,000	150,000
Orchard A/B*/C**	170,000/320,000*	150,000/280,000*/350,000**
Puerto Azul	50,000	-
Punta Fuego	Pls. Call	-
Quezon City Sports Club	140,000	120,000
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	90,000/180,000/330,000**	100,000**
Riviera Sports	45,000	-
Rockwell Leisure Club	280,000	-
Royale Tagaytay CC	80,000	-
Sherwood A/B*/C**	70,000/160,000**	40,000/90,000*
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	1,300,000/1,600,000*	1,100,000
The Palms Country Club	550,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	380,000	360,000
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	670,000
Tagaytay Midlands	700,000	660,000
The Country Club	2,000,000	-
Tower Club	Pls. Call	-
Valley Golf	250,000	-
Valle Verde Ind.	120,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	Pls. Call	6,100,000

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CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,100,000	1,000,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	Please Call	-
Baguio Country Club	550,000	520,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	40,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	70,000	-
Camp John Hay	200,000	170,000
Canlubang	550,000	470,000
Canyon Woods	125,000	-
Capitol Hills	95,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,500,000	-
Celebrity Sports Club	120,000	100,000
Club Filipino	110,000	100,000
Eagleridge "A"	200,000	180,000
Eagleridge "B"	290,000	-
Eagleridge "C"	290,000	-
Forest Hills "A"	130,000	100,000
Forest Hills "B"	200,000	180,000
Forest Hills "C"	200,000	-
Makati Sports Club "A"	240,000	190,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	11,600,000	11,500,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	11,400,000	11,000,000
Manila Polo	2,200,000	2,100,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	400,000	300,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	700,000	650,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	300,000
Metroclub "A"	130,000	-
Mimosa (Individual)	-	130,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	-	275,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	250,000	180,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	300,000	180,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	170,000	150,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	460,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	150,000	130,000
Spa & Lodge	600,000	500,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,275,000	-
Sta. Elena "B"	1,600,000	1,350,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	170,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	100,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	380,000	350,000
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	650,000
Tagaytay Midlands	680,000	600,000
The Palms Country Club	550,000	500,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	120,000	-
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	-
Valley Golf	240,000	200,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,500,000	6,000,000

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 10, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31.5	32	31.5	32	146,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	47	49	47	48.5	1,873,800
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	400
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.61	0.62	0.6	0.61	1,020,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	48	49.5	47.5	48	182,800
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	20,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	32	30	31	709,900
Philippine National Bank	33	34	33	34	226,200
Phil. Savings Bank	32	32	32	32	1,500
Security Bank Corp.	27	27	27	27	25,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	27.5	28	27.5	28	117,300
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	262.5	265	231	265	250
Manulife Financial Corp.	2570	2580	2570	2575	570
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1,394,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1720	1740	1710	1740	1,940
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11.25	11.5	11.25	11.5	21,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.06	1.12	1.06	1.1	1,810,000
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com	2.2	2.2	2	2	12,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	800	835	795	830	29,610
Ipeople Inc.	3.45	3.45	3.3	3.3	37,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	1,800,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	43,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.15	3.25	3.15	3.2	5,204,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1560	1565	1535	1535	194,430
Ivantage Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.65	0.65	1,180,000
Philweb Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.018	52,700,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.25	16	15.25	15.5	16,800
Manila Electric Co. B	23.5	24.25	23.5	24	469,200
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.6	6.4	6.5	9,583,000
Petron Corp.	3.25	3.3	3.05	3.1	4,816,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	320,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.7	7.8	7.7	7.8	1,165,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	120,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.06	1.1	1.06	1.1	22,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.58	0.61	0.56	0.59	760,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.45	3.55	3.35	3.4	2,528,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	353,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	80,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	33	33	33	33	100
Jollibee Foods Corp.	28.5	30.5	28.5	30.5	2,082,400
RFM Corp.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	10,800
San Miguel Corp. A	58	58	57.5	58	30,000
San Miguel Corp. B	89	89	89	89	19,000
Universal Robina Corp.	16	16	16	16	264,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	1,960,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	16,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	31,000,000
Ayala Corp.	340	350	340	347.5	101,100
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.85	4.95	4.8	4.95	3,228,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.033	0.033	0.033	0.033	7,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.96	1.96	1.94	1.96	238,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	10,000,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.16	3,860,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.12	1.16	1.1	1.1	29,393,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.155	0.16	0.155	0.16	540,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	150,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.29	0.32	0.29	0.32	10,600,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.65	2.55	2.6	1,345,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	8.5	8.7	8.5	8.5	817,800
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	48.5	48.5	47.5	47.5	364,200
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	100,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.0875	0.0875	0.085	0.0875	900,000
House Of Investments Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	230,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.45	3.45	734,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	50,800
Megaworld Corp.	1.38	1.42	1.38	1.4	10,715,600
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.36	0.38	0.36	0.36	33,600,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	470,000
SM Investments Corp.	255	255	252.5	255	629,760
South China Resources Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	50,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.19	13,640,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	1,680,000
Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	50,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.24	1.3	1.24	1.3	35,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	300,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHERS					
Belle Corp.	1.16	1.18	1.12	1.12	5,112,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	30,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.14	1.18	1.14	1.18	2,030,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	5,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	50,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	11.25	11.5	11.25	11.5	1,702,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series C	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series J	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series K	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	2,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.7	8	7.7	7.9	12,024,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.92	0.94	0.91	0.93	480,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	1,980,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	7,500,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.44	1.48	1.44	1.48	6,791,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.25	0.25	0.23	0.23	1,120,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	20,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.55	4.55	71,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.7	8	7.7	7.9	9,709,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	20,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	5,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.5	1,662,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	3	3	3	3	5,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.31	0.33	0.31	0.33	21,120,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.34	26,370,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	47,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	39,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.006	296,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.94	0.94	0.92	0.92	920,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.04	1.08	1.04	1.04	3,677,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	31.5	32	31.5	31.5	212,900
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	190,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	19,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	40,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	50,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	6,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.6	42,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.145	0.15	0.145	0.15	6,710,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	500,000

Construction of mall . . .

From page B1

modal transport hub and public convergence point in Quezon City, ALI said.

"The benefits of this project go beyond shopping and commuting convenience for many Filipinios," said Jaime I. Ayala, ALI president and NTDCC chair. "The commercial center will provide livelihood to hundreds of merchants and employment to thousands of workers, as well as further encourage the flourishing of consumerism—one of the main engines of economic growth—in this section of Quezon City. With a primary trade area that at present covers 1.5 million residents, the future super-regional shopping, food, and entertainment center will allow NTDCC to make life better for more Filipinos."

Four Seasons . . .

From page B1

La would apply the same concept in Boracay.

Discovery Suites has also announced plans to put up a hotel in the popular beach destination.

Durano said he was confident that problems in Boracay about land ownership would be resolved soon so as not to turn away potential investors. Resorts along the 4-kilometer strip covering the white beachfront area are facing ownership problems.

But Durano said those in the upper areas of Boracay like Fairways and Blue Waters as well as the site that Shangri-La had chosen were titled and did not have problems on ownership.

Four Seasons already operates in 16 destinations in Asia. It has two hotels each in Bali, Indonesia, Tokyo, Thailand and Singapore and one each in Jakarta, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Taipeh and Shanghai.

Four Seasons said it has more than 20 properties under development. *Clarissa S. Batino*

Transco, CDC to contain power fluctuations in Clark

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NATIONAL Transmission Corp. (Transco) and the Clark Development Corp. are working on a "game plan" that would contain power fluctuations in the economic zone and encourage locators to set up shop there.

Alan Ortiz, Transco president and chief executive, said irregular voltages at the Clark ecozone caused power fluctuations that had investors shying away from the area.

Most locators at the Clark Special Economic Zone operate power-intensive facilities that require adequate power supply at stable voltages, Ortiz explained.

The power fluctuations now taking place in the area have prevented existing locators from expanding their operations and prevented potential investors from locating there, he added.

For this reason, he said, Transco and the CDC have prepared a "game plan" to improve the power situation in the economic zone.

"We'll meet again and submit to President Macapagal-Arroyo a viable plan to deal with this (problem)," Ortiz told the INQUIRER.

Apart from the CDC, Transco is also actively coordinating with officials of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, through power distributor Subic Enerzone Corp., to ensure stable power supply at the ecozone.

Two months ago, Transco signed a P29.4-million agreement with the Aboitizes' Subic Enerzone Corp., which allowed the latter to purchase sub-transmission assets in Subic Bay and Olongapo City.

Also included in the purchase agreement are the disconnection switches at the Kalaklan Metering Point in Olongapo City.

Jaime Jose Aboitiz, Subic Enerzone president, said during the April 28 signing ceremonies that the power distributor was "bullish" on the growth potential of the Subic Freeport and the Olongapo area.

Subic Enerzone is also keen on acquiring some of Transco's 100-megavolt-ampere substations in the area.

Subic Enerzone is investing in subtransmission assets in preparation for the entry of new locators as well as for the eventual operation of the Subic port project.

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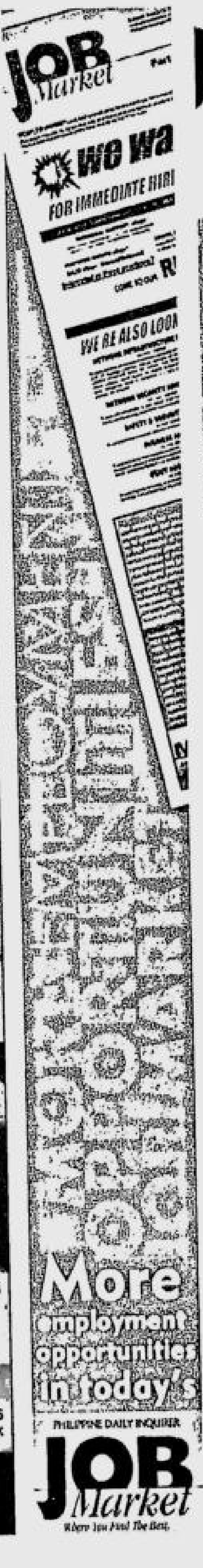
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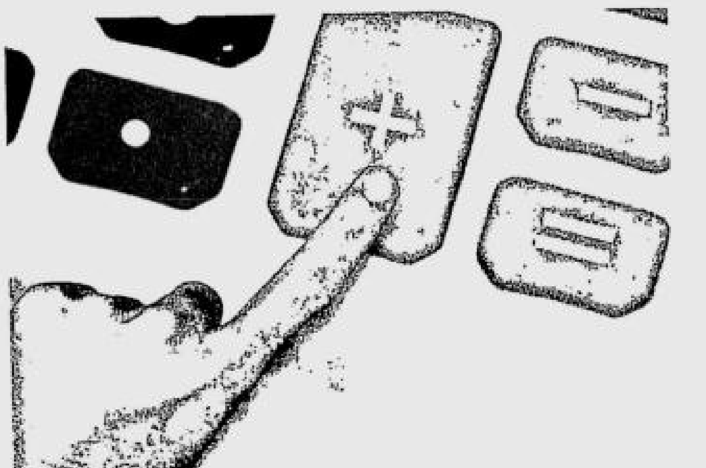

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Developing 77 to talk economy, UN reform in Qàtar

UNITED NATIONS—The Group of 77 plus China will take up UN reform and measures to strengthen their developing economies this week in Doha, Qatar, their first meeting in five years.

Leaders from the 132 countries now in the G-77, as the UN alliance of developing states is called, will discuss South-South partnerships, North-South relations and UN reform at the June 15-16 summit, said an official for the group who asked not to be named.

The G77 is the largest Third World coalition, tackling economic development since its founding in 1964.

However, some of its members, such as Brazil, India and associate member China, have become rising economic forces on the world stage.

The official said the group hopes to "come up with minimal consensus" on UN reform, adding that reform should "take into account the interests of the South."

Indeed, two G77 members, India and Brazil, are vying for permanent seats on an expanded UN Security Council in an effort with Germany and Japan.

However, India's rival and a G77 member, Pakistan, has publicly denounced the plan.

Despite the gamut of economic prowess in the G-77, which runs the gamut from powerhouses like Malaysia and Saudi Arabia to the tiny economies of Zambia and Mali, the official insisted the coalition is based on solidarity.

"Yes there are 132 countries, with different levels of development," he said. "But I think there is a common denominator, in that we all agree that we need to be unified to face the challenges of globalization," he said.

The Havana meeting five years ago was the first summit to gather heads of state since the group's creation 41 years ago and reflected a shift in global politics, said the official.

"The world has changed since the Cold War," he said. "For the South to be taken seriously into account, we needed to raise the level of commitment." *AFP*

Opec seen maintaining high production level at meeting

Norway's Oil and Energy Minister Thorhild Widvey (L) and visiting Saudi Arabian Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Ali al-Naimi talk in a garden outside the Solstrand Hotel. Al-Naimi said on Saturday he supported a 500,000 barrel per day rise in Opec's output ceiling and that current prices above $50 a barrel were "too high" and should be brought down. REUTERS

VIENNA—Opec will opt to keep pumping oil at its highest level in 25 years when the cartel meets in Vienna this week, in order to satisfy high demand forecast for the end of the year, analysts believe.

They say ministers from the 11-member Organization for Petroleum Exporting Countries are likely to increase their production quotas to legitimize the current output.

The ministers are due to meet at the Opec headquarters in Vienna on Wednesday to plot their production strategy for the second half of the year.

Saudi Oil Minister Ali al-Nouaimi, whose country is the only one that can still significantly increase production, said on Saturday that it was a foregone conclusion that Opec would raise its output by 500,000 barrels per day (bpd).

This prospect, which would bring the production ceiling up to 28 million, was raised last week by Opec's current president, Kuwait's Ahmad Fahd al-Sabah.

"This is the main proposal on the table, but other members of the organization may of course make other suggestions," a source close to Opec told AFP.

"We probably need to make a gesture. This gesture could be to increase actual production or simply formalise what we already are doing" Nigerian Energy Minister Edmund Daukoru said last week.

Opec members are already pushing out 500,000 bpd above their official production ceiling, which is set at 27.5 million bpd, without counting Iraq.

Baghdad is excluded from the quota system, but if its production is added to the rest, Opec members pump more than 30 million bpd.

It is the cartel's highest level since October 2004 and close to the record high of 1980.

After prices last week briefly topped the 55-dollar per barrel mark, Daukoro promised: "We'll do what we can to moderate prices."

The oil price was made a scapegoat on Saturday by G8 leaders meeting in London, who said they feared that sustained high oil prices were stunting global economic growth.

But analysts believe that an increase of half a million barrels per day will not have a significant impact on the price of crude oil, which has been hovering around 50 dollars for the past five months. *AFP*

AIRBUS A380 pilot Jacques Rosay waves at Le Bourget airport, few minutes after the giant plane landed near Paris. An Airbus A380 aircraft landed for the first time at a Paris airport on Sunday, arriving at Le Bourget ahead of the biennial Paris Air Show. The giant aircraft, which flew for the first time on April 27, is expected to be the star attraction at the show, making several demonstration flights for the public. AFP

US government maintains crackdown on corporate fraud

WASHINGTON—In a new strategy against crooked corporations, the Justice Department is allowing them to avoid prosecution in exchange for information about discussions between employees and company lawyers.

The disclosure of communications that typically are confidential gives companies the chance to escape with fines and the promise of internal changes. At the same time, prosecutors gain valuable information in pursuing criminal cases against executives who may have been responsible for inflated revenues and other corporate misdeeds.

Defense lawyers, however, say the tactic compromises the rights of individual defendants.

The cooperation helps companies avoid what Justice officials call "collateral damage" in corporate fraud cases—the loss of jobs, investments and pensions—that can accompany the filing of criminal charges.

The change in tactics is motivated in part by the government's experience in the Arthur Andersen case.

Some 28,000 people lost their jobs after the accounting firm was convicted in 2002 of destroying documents in the Enron scandal.

In a largely symbolic victory for the all-but-dissolved Andersen, the Supreme Court on May 31 overturned the verdict, ruling the jury had not been properly instructed.

But in pressuring the companies to waive the attorney-client privilege, the government is taking away the rights of individual defendants, criminal defense lawyers say.

"What it does is creates an environment within a company where nobody can feel comfortable seeking legal advice from a lawyer because you can't have any assurance sometime down the road that the company isn't going to waive the attorney-client privilege," said David Zornow, a former federal prosecutor.

He now is representing Stephen Richards, a former executive at Computer Associates International Inc. of Islandia, New York, who stands accused of securities fraud and obstruction of justice.

The government decided to put off prosecuting the company, which makes software and storage systems for large businesses, and focused instead on company leaders such as Richards.

Computer Associates agreed in September to pay $225 million to stave off criminal charges in a multibillion-dollar securities fraud. The company employs more than 15,000 people.

In the past year, the government also has deferred corporate fraud prosecutions of AOL and American International Group, and criminal charges against Monsanto Co. and InVision Technologies Inc. in cases that involve alleged bribes of foreign officials.

Top Justice Department officials embraced the idea of deferred prosecutions several months after Andersen's conviction.

A January 2003 memo from then-Deputy Attorney General Larry Thompson to US attorneys signaled the change. The memo said pretrial agreements of the sort previously used in criminal cases against individuals could be applied to corporations. *AP*

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Japan Q1 growth revised down, seen slowing ahead

TOKYO—Japan's economy grew less briskly than initially estimated in the first three months of 2005, as concern grew that a recent slowdown in exports and production may cool the pace further in the coming quarters.

Revised data on Monday showed gross domestic product (GDP) grew a real, or price-adjusted, 1.2 percent in the January-March quarter, slower than a preliminary reading of 1.3 percent growth and economists' consensus forecast for a 1.4 percent rise.

The spurt in January-March after three quarters of virtually no growth came mainly from a rise in inventories and from pent-up consumer demand due to natural disasters and poor weather late last year.

But economists expect the economy to stand still for some time, as exports are unlikely to grow much with markets like China slowing down and as corporate activity drops in response.

"Growth in the second quarter will be much slower than the first quarter, when we still had a five percent annualized growth rate, which is not going to happen every quarter," said Peter Morgan, senior economist at HSBC Securities.

"The early indications from things like industrial production are that output will be much flatter."

Separate data on Monday showed industrial production rose 1.9 percent in April from a month earlier on a seasonally adjusted basis, revised down from a initial 2.2 percent rise.

"Given a growing buildup of inventories due to slack demand, particularly from overseas, I expect output to be slightly negative in April-June," said Taro Saito, senior economist at NLI Research Institute. Industrial output grew 1.7 percent in January-March.

On an annualized basis, GDP expanded 4.9 percent, compared with an initial estimate for a 5.3 percent rise and economists' median forecast of a 5.6 percent gain. In nominal terms, it grew 0.6 percent from the previous quarter.

For the fiscal year 2004/05 ended in March, GDP grew 1.9 percent, slightly short of a government projection for 2.1 percent expansion.

The yen was little changed on the data, hovering at around 108.60 to the dollar. The Nikkei share price average ended up 0.06 percent. Bonds showed little reaction as the data confirmed to many investors that Japan's economy remained on a moderate recovery path.

Capital spending in the quarter was revised higher to a rise of 2.4 percent from an initial 2.0 percent, while growth in private-sector consumption was revised down to 1.1 percent from 1.2 percent.

But private-sector inventories contributed 0.3 percentage point to GDP growth, revised down from 0.4 point. That largely accounted for the slightly downward revision to the headline figure, the government said.

External demand, or net exports, lopped 0.1 percentage point off GDP growth, underscoring sluggishness in key markets for Japanese goods, such as the United States and China.

Data last week showed Japan's trade surplus fell for the fourth straight month as high oil prices pushed up prices of imports and offset mild growth in exports. *Reuters*

HSBC puts up global service center in Alabang's Northgate

By Doris C. Dumlao

UNMINDFUL of the political storm now rocking the Philippines, British banking giant HSBC yesterday opened a 2,000-seat global center for backroom service resourcing in Alabang.

The 185,000-square feet facility at the Northgate Cyberzone shall be the permanent site for HSBC's eighth such global center. The bank operates similar hubs in mainland China, India, Malaysia and Sri Lanka.

Alan Jebson, HSBC Group chief operating officer, said in a briefing that the British bank was unfazed by the current political tension in the country, arising from charges of election-fixing and illegal gambling payoffs, which involved President Macapagal-Arroyo and her family.

HSBC has been in markets like the Philippines and China for over a century, and is used to occasional political upheavals, he said.

"This [political turmoil] has no effect on our plans," Jebsen said.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said he was confident that investors, like HSBC, would look past the current disturbances, and keep the government's economic agenda on track.

He said HSBC and other long-term investors were voting with their money on the Philippines' strong economic fundamentals.

The local hub employs 1,300 people and is expected to hire 2,000 more by the end of this year. It handles call center operations, mostly credit card customer care services for the bank's clients in the United Kingdom and United States. It shall soon service the group's desktop publishing requirements.

Compared to the cost of operating similar hubs elsewhere, Jebsen said it was more expensive to put up such a facility than India but less expensive than in China.

The average investment for call centers in the Philippines ranges between $3,000 to $6,000 per seat. Each seat, which operates 24 hours a day, translates to 1.4 per person equivalent employment.

Zero VAT on power seen to stimulate investments

By Abigail L. Ho

RETAINING a zero value-added tax rating on power and fuel generated through renewable sources should encourage potential investors to invest in the sector as well as compel consumers to use fossil fuels more efficiently, according to former Energy Secretary Vincent Perez.

Under Section 6 of the expanded VAT law, a zero-percent VAT rating is imposed on the "sale of power or fuel generated through renewable sources of energy such as, but not limited to, biomass, solar, wind, hydropower, geothermal, ocean energy and other emerging energy sources using technologies such as fuel cells and hydrogen fuels."

Perez said this was a welcome development, particularly with the government's thrust to achieve 60-percent energy self-sufficiency by 2010.

"We hope that more players will invest in developing our untapped renewable energy resources to increase our energy self-sufficiency and advance our march towards energy independence," he said.

Only power and fuel generated through renewable sources are exempted from the VAT on power and fuel. Those using fossil fuels and even natural gas are slapped with a 10-percent VAT.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said in an earlier interview that the imposition of the VAT on fossil fuels should encourage consumers to conserve energy.

"The additional VAT should encourage us to use petroleum products more efficiently," he said. "This makes renewable [energy sources] more attractive in terms of prices."

In May 2003, the Department of Energy launched a comprehensive Renewable Energy Policy Framework, which was cited as one of the best national renewable energy policies in the world during the May 2004 Ministerial Conference on Renewable Energy held in Germany.

Breaktime

From page B2

young lawyer named Nilo Divina.

The government directors in the board questioned the "rocket-like" promotion of the young Divina. He has become an EVP in record time, known among the board members as the "fastest rise" in the history of Philippine banking.

At the same time, while the lawyer serves the board as the corporate secretary, he is also the chief legal counsel of the bank, not to mention serving as lawyer of the Go family.

You mean, boss, this guy draws pay from the bank for all those positions and all those jobs, in the process getting paid from out of the retirement funds of the guys down here in my barangay?

Well, at least that is the objection of the government representatives on the board, and that's why they tried to block his last promotion. No dice!

Apparently, the promotion is the reward from the Go family. Factoran himself noted that his own observations and comments, particularly those against the Go family, were missing from the minutes of the board meetings.

***

AT THE CENTER of the legal issues are the amendments to the by-laws of the bank, as a corporation, which were initiated by the Go group, the "independent" directors included.

One of them is a drastic change in the way the board approves the "nominations" to the new board, done every year before the annual stockholders meeting.

The nominations come from a committee, which supposedly screens the qualifications of the nominees, such as the guys from the SSS and the GSIS.

Based on the by-laws, the decision of the committee cannot be questioned in the annual stockholders meeting. Thus, only the board can actually do anything about the decision of the committee.

To overturn or approve the decision of the nomination committee, the present by-laws require a two-thirds vote.

In the Go family-initiated amendment to the by-laws, such a number should be down to a "simple majority."

The government side, of course, opposed the amendments before the SEC, which ruled in the government's favor. The Go family then went to the Court of Appeals.

The concern of the SSS and the GSIS becomes obvious, actually, when you look at the actual numbers, and not just the percentage of votes.

It is a 15-man board, for one, and by some machination, supported by the "independent" directors, the Go family got "nine" seats, versus the only "five" seats they are entitled to, according to their holdings.

But to get board approval for the decision of the powerful nomination committee, and thus have their way in the board election again, the Go family will need 10 votes.

As I said, the family is assured of only "nine" votes, including the votes of the four "independent" directors. Again, they are supposed to be the independent directors. What's that—independence they?

And that's why they want to change the provision of the by-laws to a "simple majority." That's just eight votes.

And that, ladies and gentlemen in my barangay, was just the latest episode in the long story about our retirement money in the bank—all P16 billion of it.

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Deadlines for submission of proposals is **Monday 12 September 2005 at 16:00.**

The Small Projects Facility (SPF) is a grant programme designed to support the on-going reform and modernization of the Philippine economy, while increasing mutual awareness between the European Union and the Philippines. Specifically, the SPF funds short-term but high-impact projects. Projects funded under the SPF contribute towards a multi-stakeholder dialogue on strategic issues of economic development and governance. Furthermore, each SPF project comprises a European dimension: this may consist of, without being limited to, partnership with a European organization, reference to European experiences, use of European expertise or technology.

Only Philippine-based, Not-for-Profit Organizations are eligible for funding under this facility: governmental or non-governmental organizations, local authorities, business associations, universities, research institutes, think tanks, etc.

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   - Assistance to help comply with EU requirements particularly food safety requirements; good manufacturing practices: hygiene, consumer protection;
   - EU Enlargement: Opportunities and challenges for trade, investment and finance;
   - Enhancing competitiveness of the Philippines for European investment;
   - Promoting investment in non-metropolitan areas;
   - Implementing the Philippine Export Development Plan, with focus on access to European markets;
   - Improving the investment climate for EU Foreign Direct Investment;
   - Tapping EU best practice in economic regulations/economic governance (examples: competition policy, consumer safety).
2. Corporate governance
   - Corporate social, environmental responsibility;
   - Support to Corporate watchgroups;
   - Promoting financial transparency in private corporations.
3. Good governance
   - Promoting transparency in local and central government; monitoring of public expenditure;
   - Participatory planning in LGUs (ex.: land use plans; development plans, etc);
   - ICT for Good Governance: implementing policies, scaling up and disseminating best practices (ex: e-procurement, GIS for planning and management, etc);
   - Support to fight against graft and corruption;
   - Millennium Development Goals monitoring mechanisms in Local Governments;
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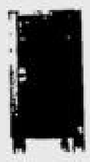
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ANNOUNCEMENT

Looking For LEA O. LORICA who used to work in Hong Kong 1983-1988 for the Chan Family - Kindly Contact Margaret +60122203009

AUCTION SALE

MEYCAUAYAN-FILIPINAS Pawnshop. Alw Complex, Calvario, Meyc. Bulacan All unredeemed pledges of DECEMBER 2004 will be auctioned on JUNE 24, 2005 8:30 am. - Lanuza & Sons-Auctioneer.
(PDI - JUNE 14, 2005)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

MUNOZ-FILIPINAS PAWNSHOP,Roosevelt Ave., Katipunan, Diliman, Quezon City. All unredeemed pledges of JAN. 2005 will be auctioned on JUNE 24, 2005, 2:00 PM. - Lanuza & Sons - Auctioneer.
(PDI - JUNE 14, 2005)

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TransCo
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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PD Ref. No.: PB050428-EL0042

The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE FOR HEAD OFFICE,** wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

Schedule	Item Description	Quantity	Approved Budget
1	Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of Remote Fiber Optic Cable Monitoring System	1 lot	P 5,000,000.00

1. Bid Documents will be available for issuance starting June 14, 2005 to July 12, 2005 at the BAC Secretariat Office, National Transmission Corporation, Materials Management Division, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00)** per set.
2. Deadline for submission, receipt and opening of bids shall be on or before 2:00 p.m of July 13, 2005 at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. If the date is declared non-working day, the new deadline for submission shall be announced through a Bid Bulletin. Submission of documents must be clear, legible and readable. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
3. Pre-bid conference will be held on July 1, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
4. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A of Republic Act 9184.
5. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
6. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **ARMANDO N. OCHOA**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - June 14 & 21, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Rizal
Municipality of Morong

Office of the Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Municipality of Morong Bids and Award Committee (BAC), is inviting qualified bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Proposed Construction of 10,000 Gals. Capacity Elevated Steel Water Tank, Brgy. Lagundi, Morong, Rizal, Proposed Construction of Shallow Well Level-I, @ Brgy. Bombongan and Brgy. Lagundi, Morong, Rizal, And Supply and Delivery (Pipe Laying) of 50 mmO G I Pipe and 12 mmO G I Pipe @ Sno Yepak, Brgy. Lagundi, Morong, Rizal.

Approved Budget for the Proposed Construction of 10,000 Gals. Steel Water Tank	P	1,100,000.00
Approved Budget for the Proposed Construction of Shallow Well Level-I	P	250,000.00
Approved Budget for the Supply and Delivery (Pipe Laying) of 50 mm O.G.I Pipe and 12 mm O.G.I. Pipe	P	150,000.00

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Issuance of Eligibility and Bidding Documents	Pre-Bid Conference	Submission and Opening of Eligibility and Bid Envelopes
June 10, 2005 10:00 AM 2nd Flr. Morong Municipal Building Office of the Municipal Budget Officer	June 15, 2005 10:00 AM 2nd Flr. Morong Municipal Building Office of the Municipal Budget Officer	June 17, 2005 10:00 AM 2nd Flr. Morong Municipal Building Office of the Municipal Budget Officer

That as of bidding date, June 21, 2005 10:00 AM, prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use for non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualifications of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Eligibility and documents shall be issued to applicants upon filing of a Letter of Intent to apply and payment of a non-refundable bidding fee of P 500.00 in the form of Cash or Manager's check in favor of Municipality of Morong.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR). Only applicants who paid bid fees shall be allowed to attend the Pre-Bid Conference and submit Bid proposals.

The Municipality of Morong thru the Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and/or part thereof, or waived any defect contained therein and may accept the offer which it deems the lowest calculated responsive bid.

(Sgd.) YOLANDA T. ALCANTARA
BAC Chairman

(PDI--June 7 & 14, 2005)

NFA Tagbilaran receives 18,000 bags imported rice

THE NATIONAL Food Authority here recently received its rice import allocation of 18,000 bags from the agency's regional office in Cebu City. Imported by the food agency from Vietnam, the volume is part of the 270,000 bags allocated for the province for the whole year. The rice will be sold through the agency's accredited outlets, namely, Bigasan ni Gloria sa Palengke (BGP), Targeted Rice Distribution Program (TRDP), Tindahan ni Gloria sa Barangay (TGB) and other accredited rice outlets at P16 and P18 per kilogram. According to NFA Tagbilaran provincial manager Rey Alcoseba, the NFA is currently revalidating the passbooks of all its accredited outlets in the province in compliance with the Philippine Grains Standardization Program (PGSP). Manager Alcoseba said that the revalidation is being undertaken to ensure that only legitimate rice retailers are allowed to sell low-priced but good quality NFA rice. The NFA is giving priority to BGP outlets in the issuance of rice allocations since they are located inside major and minor public markets which are easily accessible to consumers.

For more information on NFA programs, please send inquiries via Text NFA through mobile number 0917-6210927. For information on programs of the Department of Agriculture, please visit the DA's official website at www.da.gov.ph.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

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❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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In Loving Memory

On the 2nd Death Anniversary of

ALEXANDRA "RIA" P. ROQUE

on June 14, 2005

The Holy sacrifice of the Mass will be offered today at the following churches:

Chapel of St. Thomas More (Ateneo-Rockwell)	6:05 pm
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, Quiapo, Manila	5:00 am
Sacred Heart Parish, Kamuning	5:15 am
Immaculate Conception Parish, Antipolo Cathedral	6:00 am
St. John Mary Vianney Parish, Antipolo City	6:00 am
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice (U.P.), Diliman, Quezon City	6:00 am
Christ the King Parish, Green Meadows, Quezon City	6:00 am
Sanctuario De San Antonio, Forbes Park	6:15 am
Parish of St. James the Great, Ayala Alabang Village	6:20 am
Don Bosco, Makati City	6:30 am
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Kanlaon, Quezon City	7:00 am
St. Francis Parish Church, Shaw Blvd., Pasig City	7:00 am
Sanctuario De San Jose, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City	7:15 am
St. John the Baptist Parish, Pinaglabanan St., San Juan	7:15 am
Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Concepcion, Intramuros, Manila	7:30 am
Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon Blvd., Quezon City	8:00 am
Blessed Sacrament Fathers & Brothers (Sta. Cruz Church), Manila	8:00 am
St. Jerome Emiliani & St. Susana Parish, Ayala Alabang Village	12:15 pm
Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace (Our Lady of Edsa), Quezon City	12:15 pm
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, Bel-Air II, Makati City	12:15 pm
San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila	5:30 pm
Nuestra Señora De Gracia Parish, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City	6:00 pm
Sta. Maria Dela Strada Parish, Katipunan Rd., Quezon City	6:00 pm
Mary the Queen Parish, Greenhills	6:00 pm
St. Alphonsus Mary De Liguori Parish, Magallanes	6:00 pm
St. John the Baptist Parish, Pinaglabanan St., San Juan	6:00 pm

Her family requests relatives and friends to remember her in their prayers.

RAUL SALVACION VEGA

(July 23, 1951 - June 10, 2005)

His beloved wife Ma. Lourdes "Didi" Abola-Vega; siblings Aristeo & Nelia, Ma. Aparicion & Romeo del Castillo, Oswaldo & Corazon; Mother Marietta S. Vega, OSC, Nicanor (†), Carlitos & Baby Elena and Natividad & Benancio Panganduyon; nephews and nieces Mary Clare, Michaela, Francis Anthony, Markku Romeo Kristiansen & Angelica, Francis Rico, Angela, Carmela, Joshua, Isa, Sofia, Carla Gabriel, Carlos Juan, Franco Luis, Ma. Eloisa and Paulo; grandchildren Tyrael Julliene and Hadriel Carl, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the ancestral home in Balingasag, Misamis Oriental and will be transferred to Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City on Wednesday, June 15, 2005 in the afternoon.

Interment will be in the morning of June 18, 2005 at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

"God has you in His keeping, we have you in our hearts."

"The Lord is my strength and my shield in
whom my heart trusted & found help. So
my heart rejoices; with my song
I praise my God..." — **Psalm 28:7**

SOLEDAD G. CUNANAN

Peacefully joined her Creator and her loving husband,
Cecilio at the age of 77.

Her loving children **Baby** and **Claro Santos**, **Danny** and **Verna Eve Cunanan** and **Lorna** and **Rennie Guevarra**; grandchildren **Malou**, **Jun-Jun** and **Kim**, **Candy** and **Neil**, **Raphy**, **Kimberly**, **Anne** and **Mark**, **Len** and **Leian**; great grandchildren **Ina**, **Dana**, **Paula** and **Diego** and relatives, request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Mt. Carmel Church, Broadway St., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, June 16, 2005 at San Rafael, Bulacan after the 1:30 p.m. Mass.

Together with the Family
of our Beloved

BENIGNO P. CALANTUAN

Treasurer & Sr. Vice-President

The Management and Staff of
CLAIMSMEN ADJUSTMENT CORPORATION

announce his joining the Creator
on June 10, 2005 at the age of 75.

His remains lie in state at
San Martin de Porres Parish
Andrea I Village, Bacoor, Cavite
Cremation will be on
June 15, 2005.

JOSEFA LINDA P. ARLE

"OLLIE"

Joined her Creator on June 12, 2005.

Her beloved husband, **Boy**; children, **Bambi**, **Mig** and **Ela** request for your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Agoncillo Chapel of La Funeraria Paz, inside Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, June 15, 2005 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." — John 3:16

CLASSIFIEDS

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MESSAGEBOARD

A DAD'S DAY TREAT

Let the country know how much your dearest **FATHER** means to you by writing him a **deeply felt love note** in the widest read and circulated broadsheet in the country.

On **June 19, Fathers' Day, Inquirer Classifieds** will publish personal ads dedicated to the **fathers** on his special day.

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Dearest Daddy Esay,
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TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PD Ref. No.: PB050401-RM0023 / PR No.: PPID-05-009479

The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE FOR HEAD OFFICE, wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below

Quantity	Item Description	PR NO.	Approved Budget
One (1) Lot	CONSTRUCTION AND ERECTION OF RF BUILDING AND SIXTY (60) METER MICROWAVE ANTENNA TOWER AT BATAAN THERMAL POWER PLANT	PPID-05-009479	P 6,279,336.00

1. Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Documents will be available for issuance starting June 14, 2005 to June 28, 2005, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the BAC Secretariat Office, National Transmission Corp., Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Quezon Avenue, corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon presentation of original PCAB License Registration of at least "Category D" and "SMALL B" and a payment of non-refundable fee of ONE THOUSAND Pesos (P1,000.00) per set.
2. Deadline for submission of Letter of Intent, duly accomplished Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Documents shall be on or before June 29, 2005, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and shall be submitted at the registration office and address mentioned above. Opening of the Eligibility Envelope shall be on June 30, 2005, 2:00 p.m. If the date falls on a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be announced through a Bid Bulletin. Submission of documents must be clear, legible and readable. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted. ELIGIBLE bidders shall be notified on or before July 11, 2005.
3. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by ELIGIBLE bidders from July 12, 2005 to July 26, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE THOUSAND Pesos (P5,000.00)
4. Submission of Technical and Price Proposals of eligible bidders shall be at 10:00 a.m. on July 27, 2005 at National Transmission Corporation, Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, Main Building, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. The technical proposal will be opened immediately in the presence of Bidder's representative who chooses to attend.
5. Pre-bid conference will be held on July 15, 2005, 10:00 a.m. at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City
6. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A of Republic Act 9184.
7. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
8. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address

(Sgd.) ARMANDO N. OCHOA
Chairman, Bids and Award Committee

(PDI - June 14 & 20, 2005)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SURPLUS BUNKER-C AND OTHER JUNK ITEMS

"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING: July 12, 2005, 2:00 p.m., Solanum Hall, Bldg.-1 Grd. Floor, NPC-HO, Agham Road corner Quezon Ave., Diliman, Quezon City

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding of the following scrap and junk items located at various NPC stations.

SCHEDULE-I

Item Description and Location	Minimum Bid Price
1. Surplus Bunker-C (dead stock volume) approximately 650,000 at Manila Thermal Power Plant Tank Nos. 2, 3, and 4. The sale of the Surplus Bunker C includes the clean up of Tank Nos. 2, 3 and 4 to make the tanks suitable for "black product". Note: Participating bidders must be DENR accredited waste oil Processors and Treaters	P 5,837,807.00/lot

SCHEDULE-II

1. One (1) lot of junk station batteries, Al-Cd and Ni-Cd, 157 pcs. located at Pantabangan Hydro-Electric Power Plant, Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija	P 15,700.00/lot
2. One (1) lot turbine oil and "PCB-Free" transformer oil (9 drums and 17 drums respectively) located at Pantabangan Hydro-Electric Power Plant, Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija Note: Participating bidders must be DENR accredited waste oil transporter and treater for oils and industrial batteries	P 37,500.00/lot

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S/ CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE OFFER.
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN (2004 ORIGINAL OR XEROX COPY) OF THE BIDDER OR AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT (ORIGINAL) OF THE COMPANY AND ONE (1) COPY OF VALID IDENTIFICATION CARD LIKE DRIVER'S LICENSE, GSIS ID, SSS ID, POSTAL ID, PASSPORT, PRC ID AND COMPANY ID.

Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding may secure the bid form at P500.00/set from Mr. Alfonso D. Alday, Manager, Warehousing Inventory, Traffic and Asset Disposal Division (WITADD) at Bldg. 1, Ground Floor, NPC Head Office, Corner Agham Road and Quezon Ave., Diliman, Q.C. or call telephone no. 922-8431 **Deadline for issuance of bid form is 4:30 p.m. July 11, 2005.**

For the Materials Management Department

(Sgd.) FELIX B. TACATA, JR.
OIC, MMD

(PDI - June 13, 14 & 15, 2005)

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DTI unit to invest in ₱10-B SLEX upgrade

By Clarissa S. Batino

STATE-OWNED National Development Co. is planning to infuse equity into the P10-billion upgrade of the South Luzon Expressway to fast track the development of the Luzon economic corridor, according to Trade Secretary Juan Santos.

The trade chief said the plan was to strengthen the road network linking North Luzon to South Luzon to facilitate the movement of goods and people in the areas covered.

The development of the Luzon economic corridor involves the completion of the Subic-Tarlac road, upgrading of the airport in Pampanga, development of an airport in Batangas, and the enhancement of the international port in Batangas City.

The trade chief said Malaysia's MTD Capital could be a likely partner in the SLEX upgrade.

The Malaysian firm acquired last month a 67-percent stake in Hopewell Crown Infrastructure Corp., the group originally tasked to do the SLEX rehabilitation.

The trade secretary said NDC was finalizing its plans on the SLEX upgrade together with another state agency, the Philippine National Construction Corp. NDC and PNCC are both headed by Arthur Aguilar.

Santos said these government agencies would have to undertake the project with a private partner. NDC will soon issue bonds to raise funds for its investment in SLEX.

The goal, he said, was to complete at least two of the major components of the SLEX upgrade—the rehabilitation of the Alabang viaduct and the connection of SLEX to the Southern Tagalog Arterial Road (Star)—by 2006.

"The Malaysian group is one of the promising potential partners. But we are still finalizing the terms with PNCC," said the trade chief. The NDC is the investment arm of the trade department.

Hopewell Crown president Joel Bañares said that based on initial discussions, NDC was planning to invest about P2 billion in the project.

The idea, Bañares said, was for the state investment arm to put money in South Luzon Tollway Corp., the 80-20 joint venture between Hopewell Crown and PNCC. This company will operate the SLEX tollways.

Initially, the NDC will take care of the money needed in acquiring the right-of-way. Bañares said the government would need between P600 million and P800 million for this.

Santos said about P1 billion would be needed to repair the Alabang viaduct.

"We have to connect SLEX to Lipa and all the way to the Batangas port. At the same time, we want to complete the Subic-Clark-Tarlac road as well as other infrastructure projects in Central and North Luzon," he explained.

Santos said the San Fernando airport will support the growth of Clark airport. The two should help boost trade and tourism in North Luzon.

In Lipa, he said the government could develop the Fernando military air base. The plan is to use half of which for commercial purposes while maintaining half for military purposes.

"We can develop the Lipa air base into something similar to Mactan airport," said Santos.

VAT measure seen to drive up prices of canned goods

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE RETAIL prices of canned meat products, including corned beef, meat loaf and hotdogs, are expected to increase by 5 to 10 percent once the new value-added tax measure takes effect at the end of the month.

Consumers are bound to have a tough time, according to Felix Tiukinhoy, president of the Philippine Association of Meat Processors Inc. (Pampi).

Tiukinhoy pointed out that the purchasing power of consumers continues to go down. Now, the newly imposed VAT would further erode their buying power, he added.

Also, meat processing firms will have to increase the prices of their products as the VAT measure will affect all aspects of production, said Tiukinhoy, who is also president of Virginia Foods Corp.

During an interview, Tiukinhoy explained that Pampi member-companies could no longer hold off increases to their prices, citing the impact of the new VAT rates on fuel and electricity costs, imported raw materials and tin plates.

"The large meat processing firms have been holding off increases in the past, but this time, it may not be possible with ... the approved VAT measure," he told the INQUIRER. "These will have significant impact on our costs."

He added that some of the member firms would also have to address labor costs.

"In the Visayas Region for instance, the wage increase would have to be factored in," Tiukinhoy said.

He said that member-companies are still finalizing their computations because the rate increases would vary for every product line.

"We would want to impose a very minimal increase because we are afraid we may further lose our market," he said.

The decline in the purchasing power of Filipinos have resulted in limited purchases since last year, according to a recent study commissioned by the meat processing industry.

Tiukinhoy said that from an average purchase of three to five canned products a month, consumers have opted to limit their buys to two cans.

WB proposing reforms in pension fund system

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE WORLD Bank said the pension funds systems in the Philippines, Korea and Thailand would likely be debt-ridden in the next 15-20 years if imbalances between contributions and benefits were not corrected.

In a study entitled: "Old Age Income Support in the 21st Century: An International Perspective on Pension Systems and Reform," the bank said these three countries had pension fund systems that were not supported by the revenue stream.

The study released in May noted that these countries had "relatively immature" Overseas Economic Cooperation and Development-style pension schemes that designed without the proper linkage with contributions.

"Although these systems are in a strong financial position when measured in cash terms, the high implicit pension debt will manifest itself in the next 15 or 20 years if reform is not undertaken soon," the study said.

It said policy-makers in Korea and Thailand had long recognized the problems with the current design. They have attempted to reduce the benefit level and increase the contribution rate but the measures fell short of reaching a balanced contribution-benefit link.

"Given the recent stagnant growth and a perverse incentive to drop out early, the Philippine system is particularly in need of a strategy that will permit better risk management to restore financial sustainability and the ability to withstand shocks, be they economic, demographic, or political," the study said.

It particularly referred to the contributory service requirement of only 10 years for private sector employees in the Philippines to qualify for pension fund benefits compared to 25 years in other countries.

Members with 10 credited years of service are eligible to receive at least P1,200 monthly pension from the Social Security System while those with 20 credited years are entitled to P2,400 a month.

For government employees, whose pension fund is the Government Service Insurance System, the minimum requirement is a bit longer at 15 years.

The study noted that almost all of the economies in East Asia operate separate pension schemes for public and private sector workers, except for Hong Kong, where civil servants hired since 2001 participate in a mandatory provident fund with a top-up arrangement.

ENVIRONMENT and Natural Resources Secretary Michael Defensor (left) confers with Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA) president Antonio Olizon at the start of the two-day Philippine Forestry Development Forum held recently at the Asian Development Bank. The forum was attended by 360 representatives from business, academe, international institutions, and local and national government officials.

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Listed firms' profit up 51%

NET earnings of Philippine Stock Exchange-listed companies soared 51 percent to P36.75 billion in the first quarter of the year from P24.32 billion in the same period last year.

The top gainers during the period were Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Ayala Corp., and Globe Telecom Inc.

PLDT reported a net profit of P9.4 billion, a 65 percent increase from P5.7 billion in the same period last year. This was attributed to decreases in financing costs which brought down company expenses.

Ayala Corp. reported a consolidated net income of P3.1 billion, up from P1.1 billion in the same period last year. This was due to strong earnings contribution from key operating subsidiaries, particularly Ayala Land Inc., Bank of the Philippine Islands and Globe. This was further enhanced by the one-time capital gains from the sale of shares in Manila Water Company and ALI.

Globe, for its part, posted P3 billion in net profit, a slight increase from the P2.9 billion recorded in the same period last year. The growth in revenues was offset by an increase in operating costs due to higher marketing expenses and costs related to network expansion.

The 30 companies comprising the PSE Composite Index reported a cumulative net profit of P27.98 billion, accounting for 76 percent of the total net profit. This represents a 40-percent increase from year-ago level.

"This development demonstrates that the Philippine equities market is sound and healthy," said PSE president and CEO Francis Lim.

"This excellent performance in the corporate front, coupled with the string of good news such as the higher-than-expected GDP growth, the strengthening of the peso and the investor-friendly decision of the Supreme Court on the mining industry as well as the recently-enacted EVAT Law, clearly shows that the country has excellent fundamentals," Lim added.

The commercial and industrial (C-I) sector's net income surged by 50 percent to P25.30 billion from P16.85 billion. This accounted for 69 percent of the total net income of listed companies.

The holding sub-sector recorded the highest increase of 208 percent to P8.24 billion from P2.68 billion, accounting for 33 percent of the C-I sector. The communication sub-sector, which accounted for 55 percent of the C-I sector's net income, expanded by 69 percent to P14.02 billion from P8.30 billion.

In the meantime, the food, beverage and tobacco sub-sector, accounting for 12 percent of the C-I sector, posted an earnings decline of 8 percent to P3.14 billion from P3.41 billion. Earnings of transportation services sub-sector, 1 percent of C-I sector, fell 31 percent to P252.64 million from P368 million, while of hotel, recreation and other services sub-sector, 0.11 percent of C-I sector, posted a 44-percent decline in earnings to P28 million from P49 million.

NET INCOME (in billions of pesos)

JANUARY-MARCH 2005 AND 2004

	NET INCOME		%	%
	2005	2004	change	contribution
BANKING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES	7.26	5.27	37.6	19.7
Banks	6.82	5.28		
Financial Services	0.43	(0.01)		
COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL	25.30	16.85	50.1	68.8
Communication	14.02	8.30		
Construction & Other Related Products	(0.04)	0.36		
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	3.14	3.41		
Holding	8.24	2.68		
Hotel, Recreation and Other Services	0.03	0.05		
Manufacturing, Distribution and Trading	(0.37)	(0.04)		
Power, Energy and Other Utilities	(0.23)	1.58		
Transportation Services	0.25	0.37		
Phil. Deposit Receipts/Preferred	0.26	0.14		
MINING	0.24	(0.10)	352.2	0.7
OIL	0.66	0.05	1,280.4	1.8
PROPERTY	3.30	2.24	47.1	9.0
SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES	(0.002)	(0.0002)	908.3	(0.01)
CUMULATIVE NET INCOME	36.75	24.32	51.14	

Compiled by PSE Research and International Affairs Department

WHAT 'being fit' really means /C4

LIFESTYLE

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

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A PRACTICAL approach to self-defense, Krav Maga teaches one how to function under shock of a sudden, violent encounter.

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This self-defense method, first developed and tested in the Israeli military, prescribes busting your assailant's chops and then running away as fast as you can

Krav Maga to the rescue

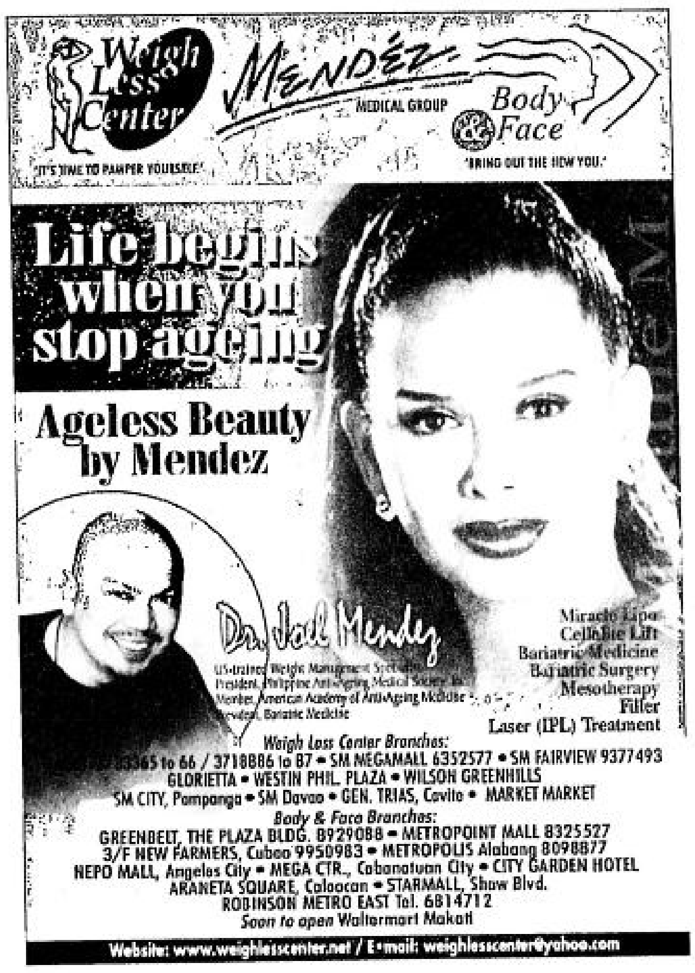
By Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Rudy Esperas

BE QUICK and be gone. When life or property is threatened unexpectedly, a self-defense counter must not take longer than 20 seconds. Beyond that one must be prepared for a physically—and mentally—demanding fight.

It is vital, therefore, to first take away the threat—say a knife—control it, execute a counterattack and leave the scene. Run away if necessary. Speed is everything; presence of mind, essential.

Such is the basic principle of Krav Maga, the official hand-to-hand combat system of the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) that has been adjusted to civilian self-defense upon founder Imi Litchtenfeld's retirement from the military in the

KRAV/ C3



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HOTSHOTS Sonny Barrios, Rudy Salud, and Makati's dynamic Mayor Jejomar Binay

THELMA Ampil, Maricor Nieto and Dolores Cheng

BOOTS Anson Roa, Ricky and Beng Dee and popular PR man Donnie Ramirez

FACES then, Mezze now: Maritess Lagdameo Lopez, Ditas Lerma, Anita Chan and Meralco's hotshot southerner Manolo Lopez

JAYSON Khonghung, Kenneth and Jessica Palacios, with Jackie Ongchoco (standing)

Man behind 'Faces Disco' makes a comeback

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

IT WAS a smashing grand opening of Greenbelt 2's newest swinging baby, Mezze, a restaurant-bar, *palanggas*.

I have rarely seen an opening party like it. The many guests literally spilled out into the streets. The turnout clearly indicated that **Bobong Velez**, the man behind the legendary Faces Disco, was right when he decided to make a comeback in the entertainment scene by opening a place that would bridge the generations of the '80s and '90s and the present crop of hip clubbers.

No less than Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay snipped the ceremonial ribbon, followed by the traditional blessing by Fr. **Armand Tangi**, SSP. Assisting them were former PBA commissioner **Rudy Salud**, Bobong V., and his Mezze partners—Dr. **Ernie Santos**, **Sonny Barrios**, **Boone Ongchoco**, **Carlos Ley** and **Renzy Padernal**.

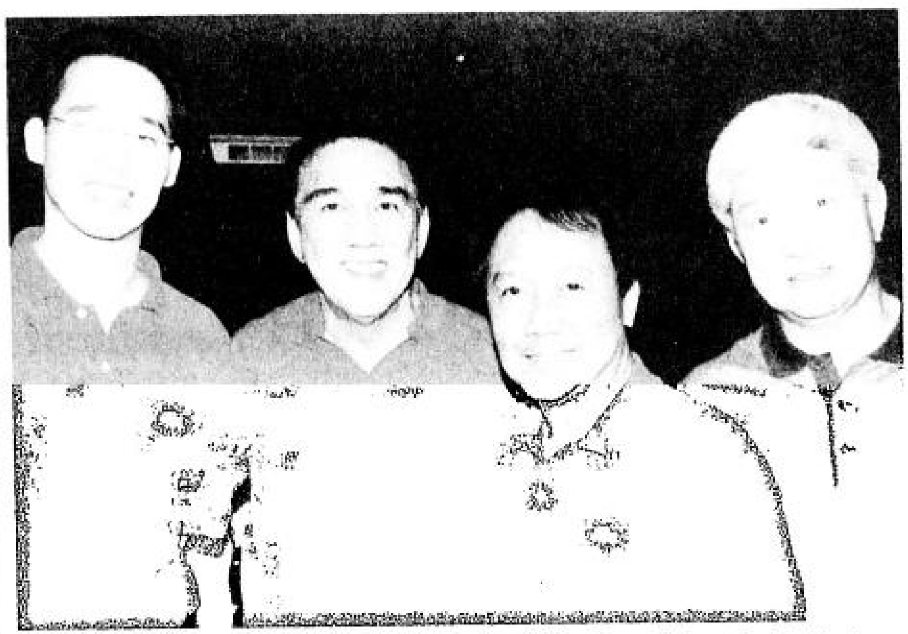
In his brief speech, Binay jestingly said, "I hope that it will make a lot of money so that Makati can collect more taxes," which brought laughter and applause.

The staunch loyalists of Faces had the best party times of their lives with multi-talented DJ **Boyet Almasan** playing his unrivaled library of '80s music.

Yes, it certainly was turning back the hand of time to the good old Faces days for 300 or so partying personalities such as former Sen. **Sonny Osmeña**, PR man and columnist **Bob Zozobrado**, Bulgari's **Mario Katigbak**, Bergamo's **Mel Meer**, and popular cardiologist Dr. **Randy Francisco** and his wife **Irene Martel**, who was one of Faces' major stockholders and is now publisher of the popular Tatler magazine.

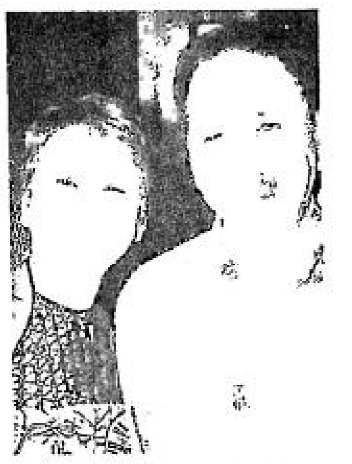
Also dancing were ageless bon vivants **Raffay Rufino** with his pal, architect **Bobby Formoso**; **Anthony Pangilinan**; glam party gals **Becky Garcia**, **Geena Zablan**, **Lilibeth Campos**, **Jayne Yu**, and **Rachel Lobangco** (who has split up with DJ **Manolet Dario** for the second time around); **Marissa Fenton**; **Maribel Dario** and **Rosanna Escudero**, plus the Galaxy Stars of **Manolet Lagdameo**, **Robert Young**, **Charlie Cojuangco**, **EJ Litton** and **Gilbert Teodoro**.

Joining the fun were the regular night owls who had their own special launch by party organizer and super-creative events whiz, **GP Reyes**, five days later, *palanggas*.



MEZZE's new gang of four: Boone Ongchoco, Bobong Velez, Renzy Padernal and Carlos Ley

POPULAR couple Boy and Monette Guevara



TV's glam gal Ces Drilon with former Senator Sonny Osmeña

The place was superbly decorated by multi-talented interior designer **Anton Barretto**, also of Pineapple. It has an awesome giant video wall and a multi-screen LG system behind the bar.

Sample Mezze's menu. The place specializes in small plate dining and full entrees, including classic best sellers from Bobong's now defunct Spanish restaurant Doña Nena's, such as the Paella, which was passed around. "Yummy!" said everyone, natch.

Yes, *palanggas*, with Mezze, it's party time with Bobong again.

Italian hair care now here

Inspired by nature-caring philosophies, world renowned Davines, an environment-inspired Italian hair care, color and styling line distributed in 55 countries, was launched recently in Manila, *palanggas*.

The Peninsula Manila Hotel's Conservatory was transformed into a sanctuary, with cool white silk cloth draping the high ceiling walls.

Relaxing sounds greeted the guests. They were welcomed by healthy drinks and yummy low-calorie canapes. The lush garden salad buffet was definitely diet-friendly. For desserts, there were fresh fruits, yogurt and cottage cheese.

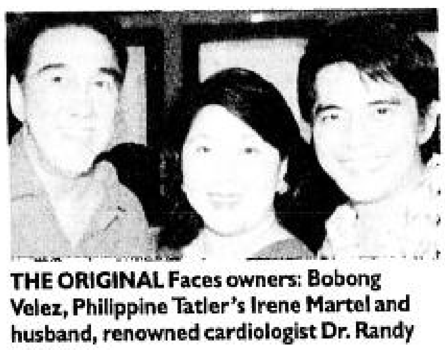
Sergio Cavazanna, Davines international sales manager, explained to the audience what Davines stands for.

Stefan W's favorite products include the De-Stress Muesli and Yogurt shampoo and conditioner. His other musts are the Vegetarian Miracle and the Royal Jelly Hair Plus.

Davines couldn't have found a better Styling Space gal than the ultra-stylish designer, **Hindy Webber-Tantoco**, no less. Her trend-setting character and beautiful, hip style fit Davines perfectly.

Davines International coordinator Brian **Suhr** emphasized "the importance of caring for health and the environment." Yes, *palanggas*, it's still our Mother Earth that holds the best beauty-enhancing secrets.

Call 6871156.



THE ORIGINAL Faces owners: Bobong Velez, Philippine Tatler's Irene Martel and husband, renowned cardiologist Dr. Randy Francisco

PEPPER Teehankee, Absinth's Christine San Diego, and her lover, good-looking Morten Bremelhoej

John Robert Powers is 20

The renowned John Robert Powers (JRP) Philippines is celebrating its 20th year as a personality development school.

Since opening in 1985, JRP has produced hot namedroppables such as actor **Yul Servo**; **Karen Agustin**, Binibining Pilipinas Universe 2002 and second runner-up in the International Models and Talents Association Competition in New York; recording artist **Sean Lim**; **Shiela Alonzo**, fourth runner-up in the Miss Earth Philippines pageant; **Maricar Tolosa**, Binibining Pilipinas 2001; **Paolo Ballesteros**, top TV personality; **Francois Filamor**, model of the Ford Modeling Agency in New York; **Kyla**; **Sarah Geronimo**; **Angelica Jones**; and that's just to name a few, *palanggas*.

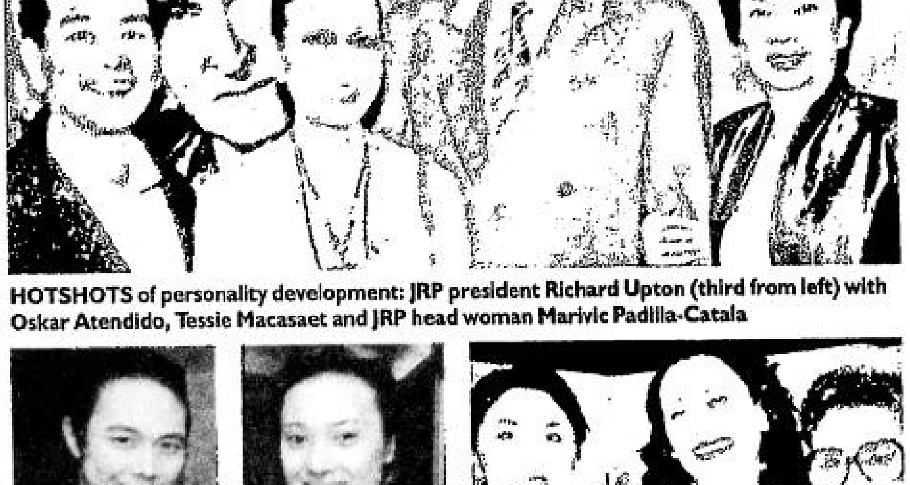
JRP's method of successful teaching focuses on founder John Robert Powers' philosophy beginning in 1923: "Be yourself, be natural, be the best you can be." With this in mind, long-time Manille resident, businessman **Richard Upton**, brought John Robert Powers to our shores.

During their latest "thanksgiving lunch" at JRP's new headquarters, at the Casmer Building along Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village, former teachers came in full chic force. It was great seeing dazzling **Mary Prieto**, her daughter, **Marilou Prieto Lovina**, **Chiqui Martinez Prieto**, glam gal **Vicky Zubiri** with her pal, **Vicky Tuason**, tall **Lanie Aquino**, chic **Baby Fernando**, **Oskar Atendido**, and **Tessie Macasaet**.

Today, the JRP is headed by cyber-smart **Marivic Padilla-Catala**, who is the international director of John Robert Powers International.

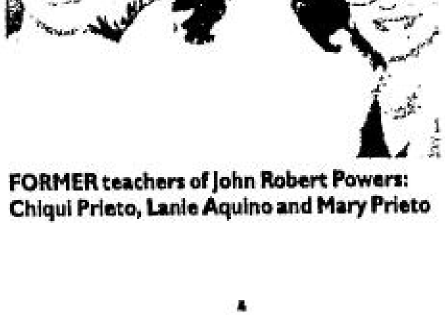
A PLEASANT surprise. The young, enigmatic Nancy Castiglione, with her hair by Pin Antonio

A FAB Styling Space gal. Hindy Tantoco's hair was styled by Kenti Tam of Salon de Ken.



HOTSHOTS of personality development: JRP president Richard Upton (third from left) with Oskar Atendido, Tessie Macasaet and JRP head woman Marivic Padilla-Catala

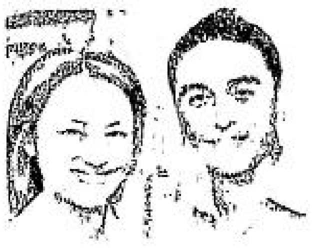
SUCCESSFUL JRP graduates: Recording artist Sean Lim and Shiela Alonzo, fourth runner-up in the Miss Earth Philippines pageant



FORMER teachers of John Robert Powers: Chiqui Prieto, Lanie Aquino and Mary Prieto

DE-STRESS bluelight on the two hotshots. Brian Suhr, Davines' hot international educator coordinator, and Sergio Cavazanna, mega international sales manager

BASEMENT Salon's Stefan Wilczynski with the perfect representative for Davines, gorgeous Agot Isidro



HEY, you're looking good. CRAI Inc.'s Erica Ilacad with Boom Gonzales

GANG of achievers. CRAI Inc.'s Armand Valencia, with Audra Lucero and Chester Co

VIOLENT encounters can happen from behind...

... ESCAPE from various holds and positions.

Krav Maga to the rescue

> What students learn is pure street-style self-defense where competition rules do not apply

From page C1

mid-'60s. Although Krav Maga is still used to train elite IDF soldiers and other military men in camps all over the world, many civilians have sought refuge in this practical self-defense tool.

"Military training has one purpose: To arrest or kill the enemy. For civilians, the goal is different. They have to defend themselves and try to get away from the situation," says the Jani Suvanto, the Finnish Krav Maga instructor in the Philippines.

Kenneth Asuncion, elder brother of the renowned badminton champs, the Asuncion siblings, brought Krav Maga to the country. Aside from learning how to react to different situations, both Kenneth and his wife Maite discovered it was therapeutic when their eldest child sought medical treatment in the United States not long ago.

Tried and tested

Touted as having been tested in both street and battlefield, Krav Maga was borne out of the young Jewish Litchtenfeld's need to defend himself in pre-World War II Bratislava, Slovakia.

Adjusting the method for civilian use is more challenging than it seems. The military, says Suvanto, is disciplined and obeys orders without asking questions.

"They will jump until you tell them to stop. Civilians think for half an hour and ask for the meaning of what they are doing before they begin to believe what you have to say," he says.

The behavioral differences demand more hard work from the trainers, but an even bigger disadvantage for civilians is not being alert enough. The military is trained to be prepared for an attack 24 hours a day; the civilian is not. Since assailants—whether they grab, choke or kick—often use the element of surprise, one of Krav Maga's goals is to sharpen a student's instincts for sniffing danger.

Beginners' classes grill students on the basics of punching, kicking and other forms of attacks, mostly to get the feel of the exercise and know what it might be like in a real-life sparring, says Suvanto.

Counterattack

Learning a counterattack is important. Blocking an assailant's punches, for instance, won't make him stop. Suvanto says if his aim is to punch you he will continue to do so until he actually hits you. Only a strong counterattack can stop him.

"Caucasians are big, clumsy, assertive and rough on the edges. We have to train them to be less violent. Filipinos are softer and gentler. I think a more aggressive training should be applied," Suvanto says.

After the basics come lessons for self-defense—against kicks, punches, weapons such as knives or empty bottles, releasing one's body from grabs, etc. In short, everything that can possibly happen when under attack in the real world. Realistic scenarios and doable defenses, whether one is a health-conscious gym rat or not.

There are sparring sessions, with bigger, smaller, older, younger, male and female partners—one on the defensive, the other the aggressor. Advanced training entails reenactment sessions, taking classroom sessions to the streets under real street lights, in the car parks, on dark alleys, on stairways, etc.

Pure self-defense

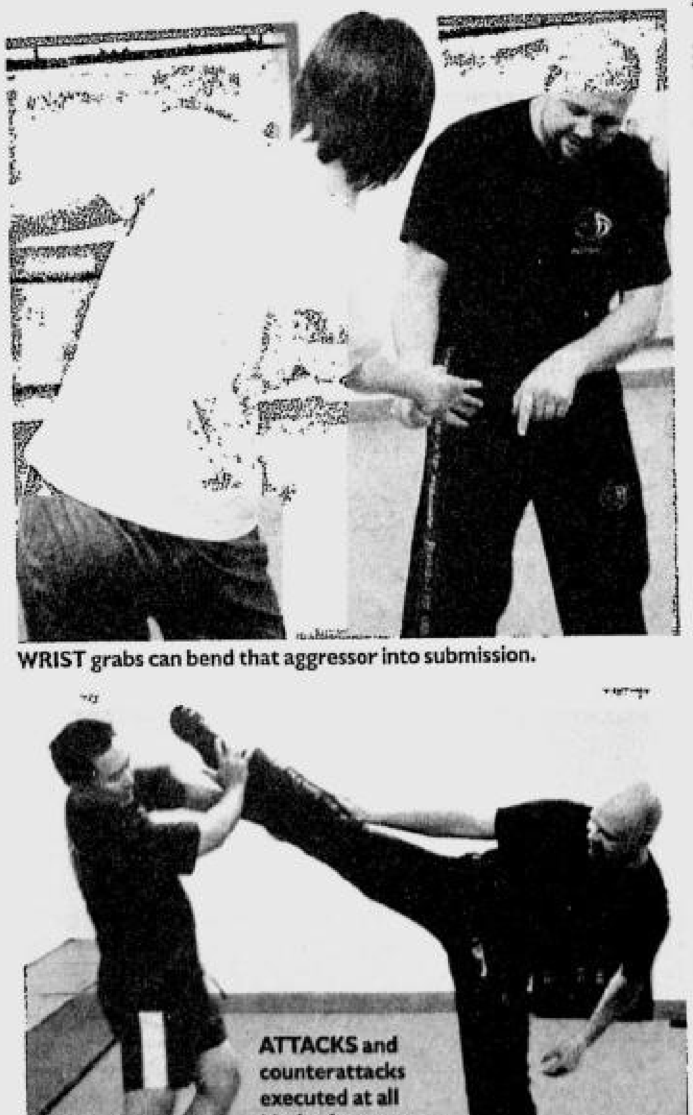
There are no forms to learn, no kata to master like in martial arts. What students learn is pure street-style self-defense where competition rules do not apply. Kick your assailant in the groin or use a chair to defend yourself if necessary. In fact, anything on sight, such as rocks or sticks, can become effective weapons when properly used. Simulating real life as much as possible, students also learn how to defend against two, three or four muggers.

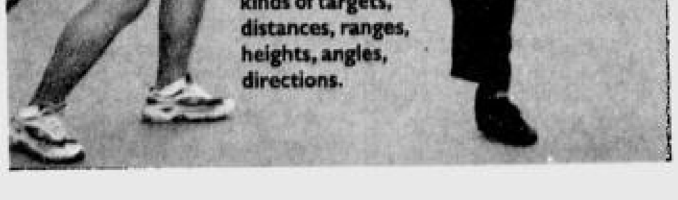
When being choked, for instance, the first thing to do is to get some air into the lungs before executing a counterattack and disengaging from the situation. Learn how to disentangle from different holds in various positions as well as swift offensive moves that will bend that aggressor in submission.

The main goal, says Suvanto, is to do whatever it takes to get home safely.

Krav Maga classes are offered at the 2/F Asuncion Badminton Center, 20 E. Maclang corner P. Guevarra St., San Juan, Metro Manila (tel. 7248455, fax 7254942). Classes are currently held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at 5:30, 7 and 8:45 p.m.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph


WRIST grabs can bend that aggressor into submission.


ATTACKS and counterattacks executed at all kinds of targets, distances, ranges, heights, angles, directions.

SASSA Activewear is made from fabrics that provide added flexibility for activities that call for stretches, swings and the like.

Sassy active wear

SASSA introduces its newest line of activewear that conveys the message that femininity and style need not be sacrificed for function.

The new Sassa Activewear line boasts of unique colors such as powdered glass blue and spring bouquet green to not only brighten your look but help you stay cool. Light colors do not absorb as much heat as dark colors do during hot or humid days, keeping you fresh despite an active lifestyle.

Sassa Activewear is made from fabrics that provide added flexibility for those activities that call for stretches, swings, punches, jumps, high kicks and the like.

There is a Sassa Activewear boutique at the 2/L of Ali Mall, and at The Landmark, Robinsons Department Stores, Shopwise and Super SM Hypermarts. Sassa Activewear is also available in all other major department stores nationwide.

For more information, visit www.barbizonfashion.com/sassa or e-mail sassa@barbizonfashion.com.

Fun run in Manila

THE WESTIN Philippine Plaza invites runners to its first Run-Westin Manila Fun Run on June 19. This is in line with its new global initiative, The Westin Workout.

The race will feature a challenging 5k and 10k open. The race is in partnership with the Run and Compete Enterprise (RACE) and over 1,500 runners are expected to participate comprised of individuals, corporate running clubs and hotel associates.

The race will start at 6 a.m. on the grounds of The Westin Philippine, stepping out on Roxas Boulevard/Buendia fly over with the Coastal road as a turnaround point. Cash prizes and medals await the top 3 male and female winners in each category. Medals for the 4th-10th runners-up in each category will also be awarded.

Registration is ongoing at the G/F of Vasquez Madrigal Plaza in Greenhills, San Juan, with a registration fee of P150. Interested parties may also register at The Westin Sports Club and Spa. Call 5515555 locals 1587 or 1588.

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MEDICard The Healthcare I Deserve!

What are the treatment methods for patients with dengue?

Take Charge Doc!

As for patients with other viral illnesses, the treatment for dengue is entirely symptomatic and is done on an out-patient basis. Patients are prescribed anti-pyretic and tepid sponge bath for fever, mucolytics or other cough preparations for cough, and Vitamin C to increase resistance and strengthen blood capillaries to prevent from rupturing. Patients are also advised to increase the intake of oral fluids.

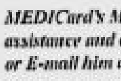
Dengue fever with hemorrhagic manifestations, Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF), which may include nose bleeding, gum bleeding, melena (stool or vomit stained black by blood pigment or dark blood products) and menorrhagia (abnormally heavy bleeding at menstruation, which may not be associated with abnormally long periods) has however an entirely different treatment method. The patient with DHF, which is more severe, should be admitted to a tertiary hospital for the management of circulatory collapse.

This week's answer to our feature question on the treatment methods for dengue was provided by our medical coordinator for the Galela Multispecialty Clinic and Diagnostic Center, Dr. Genivelle E. Galvez.

Dr. Galvez has been providing quality medical services for MEDICard members for more than 6 years now. She specializes in Infectious Medicine and has been in practice for more than 11 years. Doc Galvez finished her medical degree in 1988 at the Fatima College of Medicine and in 1994 her residency training for her specialization. She is affiliated with the Philippine Medical Association, the Bulacan Medical Society and the Philippine Society for Microbiology and Infectious Disease. Members may seek consultation services from Dr. Genivelle Galvez at the Galela Multispecialty Clinic and Diagnostic Center located at (McArthur Highway, Boral 1st Balagtas, Bulacan), from Mondays to Fridays 5 in the afternoon to 7 in the evening.

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

Nicky



Best proven herbs, cosmetic surgery advice

IN THE LATEST issue of Healthy Options News Digest, the cover story features the 24 best (proven) herbal remedies. Among the effective herbs with their remedy are aloe vera for burns, flaxseed for osteoporosis, feverfew for migraine prevention, cranberry for urinary tract infection, ginseng for erectile dysfunction, hawthorn for congestive heart failure and horse chestnut for varicose veins, valerian for insomnia.

On women's health, the issue on "Debunking Pap Smear Myths" will definitely enlighten female readers. The Pap smear is one of the most common routine medical tests that women get, yet persistent myths and misinformation still abound. Another interesting read is what every woman wants to know about colorectal cancer. After "Today" show star Katie Couric had the guts to undergo a televised colonoscopy, giving millions of viewers a guided tour of her large intestine, the rate of colon cancer testing jumped 20 percent nationwide in the US.

A revealing topic for women, as well as for men, under Vital Finds is the "Beauty Disasters, When Cosmetic Surgery Goes Wrong." Just how risky are cosmetic procedures? Learn what goes wrong and how often.

"Kid's Nutrition" educates families on the diets for different ages. A diet that provides adequate nutrition and is appropriate for a child's state of development. On the other hand, for Health Notes, "Aging Changes in the Bones-Muscles-Joints" is discussed. Know more about aging changes, effect of changes, its common problems and prevention.

Check out the latest Healthy Options News Digest offered free to customers of Healthy Options, the leading natural products store, located at Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong; Rustan's Supermarket, Makati; 2/L of Festival Supermall, Filinvest, Alabang; Ground Level of Ayala Center, Cebu City; Ground Floor of SM City North Edsa; 2/L of SM Manila; SM Pampanga; Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati City; and 2/L of SM Megamall B, Edsa Mandaluyong City.

The real meaning of fitness

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

!!!
COUGH UBO UBO!
steph.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

MANY people think that a lean and toned body is a sure sign of "being fit" but they are missing out on the real meaning of fitness. It's not surprising that this is the image that comes to mind because these are the kinds of bodies that are used in ads for gyms or fitness equipment. Firm muscles and a low body fat percentage can be some of the signs of fitness, but you don't have to look like that to be fit.

So what does "being fit" really mean? This is an important question because people either try too hard to be in shape and injure themselves since they think they have to look a certain way or they don't even bother trying to get in shape since they believe they can never achieve that "look."

Definitions of fitness

Actually, being fit does not have much to do with how your body looks but has everything to do with how your body performs. Here are several definitions of fitness:

- "The ability to execute a given task effectively and safely" (Facts & Fallacies of Fitness).
- "The capacity to achieve the optimal quality of life" (Fitness Leaders Handbook).
- "The condition resulting from a lifestyle that leads to the development of an optimal level of cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength and flexibility, as well as the achievement and maintenance of ideal body weight" (American Council on Exercise Personal Trainer Manual).

The S-factors of fitness

I believe that a more complete definition comes from the book "Physiotherapy" by Christopher Norris. He says being fit means having the "S-factors": Stamina, suppleness (flexibility), strength, speed (rate of movement and power), skill (athletic and motor), specificity (what you need to be fit for) and spirit (psychological aspect).

Functional fitness means having all these factors at a level that is necessary for your lifestyle and goals. An Olympic-class athlete requires a different level of fitness compared to someone who only plays a weekend sport.

No matter how sedentary your lifestyle, you should have all the S-factors (at a minimum level) to be able to do routine activities of daily living without getting fatigued or injured.

You should also, at the very least, be fit enough to stay healthy and prevent lifestyle diseases like diabetes, hypertension, stroke and heart disease.

Health versus fitness

Good health and fitness do not always go together. As paradoxical as it may sound, an individual can actually be fit and unhealthy.

If health is defined as the absence of disease and fitness is defined as the ability to do a given task effectively and safely, then it is possible for someone who lifts weights and has strong muscles to have clogged arteries. This could be due to bad genes, a poor diet, smoking or high stress levels.

Drug, supplement and herbal abuse can also be the reasons someone can be fit and unhealthy. Thus there are cases of superbly fit athletes dying of heart or liver ailments.

I remember a fitness instructor who was taking steroids and was constantly on a very high-protein diet to maintain her "six-pack" abdomen and her extremely lean body. She was always catching a cold and eventually caught pneumonia. Ironically, even though she was very fit, she was less healthy than her unfit clients.

Generally speaking, however, fit people live longer than unfit people according to studies done by the Cooper Institute for Aerobic Research. Head researcher Stephen Blair found that physically fit men are 53 percent less at risk of premature death than sedentary men while physically fit women are 98 percent less at risk of premature death than inactive women.

How much fitness do you need to lower your risk of premature death? Blair's research found that for women, walking two miles in less than 30 minutes at least three days a week or walking two miles in 30-40 minutes five to six days a week. For men, walking two miles in less than 27 minutes at least three days a week or walking two miles in 30-40 minutes six to seven days a week.

How fit do you want to be?

You need to seriously ask yourself how fit you want to be because it will determine how much time and effort you need to put into your exercise program. In my opinion, fitness can come in four levels: Health, function, aesthetics and sports performance.

Studies show that 30 minutes daily of any kind of physical activity (including lifestyle activities like gardening and house cleaning) seems to be the minimum requirement to maintain basic health.

For functional fitness (and average aesthetic results), a sample program can be 30 minutes of low to moderate cardiovascular exercise three times a week, 20 minutes of resistance training (an example is lifting weights) twice a week (one set of 12-15 repetitions, one exercise per body part) and stretching exercises three times a week (one stretch per body part held for 15-30 seconds).

To achieve the so-called "fit" look as well as higher levels of stamina, strength and flexibility, a typical program could look something like this: 45-60 minutes of moderate to high intensity cardio exercise (walking, running, cycling, dancing) four to six times a week, one hour of resistance/flexibility training three times a week (weights, Pilates machines, yoga). Needless to say, proper nutrition is also very important.

Being fit for sports performance requires an exercise program made specifically for the sports plus hours of practice. That's why athletes are considered the elite of the fitness world.

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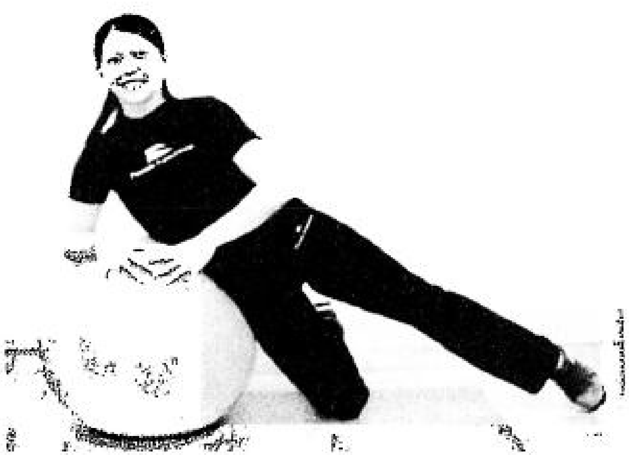
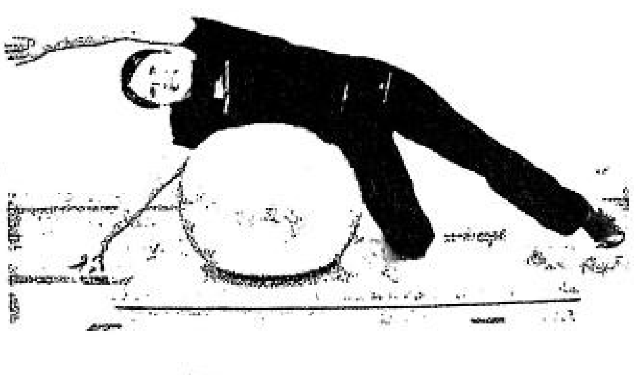
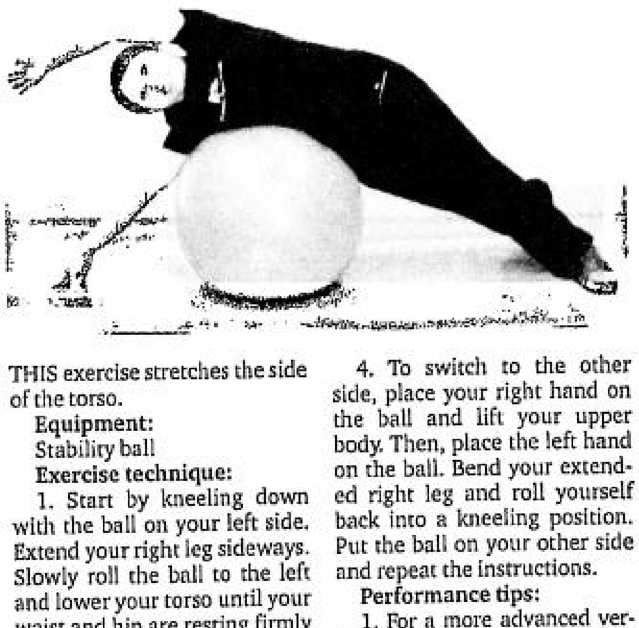
EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Lateral stretch on stability ball







THIS exercise stretches the side of the torso.

Equipment:

Stability ball

Exercise technique:

1. Start by kneeling down with the ball on your left side. Extend your right leg sideways. Slowly roll the ball to the left and lower your torso until your waist and hip are resting firmly against the ball.

2. Place your left hand on the floor. Then, carefully lower your upper body and take your right arm over your head.

3. Hold the stretch for the desired length of time.

4. To switch to the other side, place your right hand on the ball and lift your upper body. Then, place the left hand on the ball. Bend your extended right leg and roll yourself back into a kneeling position. Put the ball on your other side and repeat the instructions.

Performance tips:

1. For a more advanced version, straighten both legs (top leg in front, bottom leg behind).

2. Keep neck and shoulders relaxed.

Repetitions:

Hold the stretch for 10-30 seconds.

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LIFESTYLE

Text us your feedback:
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2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Beauty and wellness finds

Part II

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

No single treatment can bring back a glowing complexion. It has to be a combination of approaches

IT pays to be aware of endless possibilities to improve the quality of one's life. Here is an update on more good news.

Oxygen in a can

Clean, unpolluted air is the mission of an even conscious world toward preserving Mother Earth. The effort to cleanse the air of unwanted chemicals could mean a boost towards the prevention of respiratory diseases and other related illnesses. Of the three elements necessary for human survival—oxygen, water and food—air is considered the most urgent need.

While planting more trees can raise the oxygen level of air, massive planting of millions of trees in countless forests worldwide could literally save our atmosphere. Meanwhile, you can enjoy the benefits of pure, unadulterated oxygen in a can. Yes, it's called Oxycan.

A whiff of oxygen is good for:

- Boosting energy, especially during overtime work, late-hour/late-night studies, sports competitions and regimens
- Easing shortness of breath
- Long-distance traveling where alertness is required
- A zap of fresh air in smoke-filled rooms.
- Infusing fresh air in stale, musty rooms and closets.

Available in many badminton courts in Metro Manila. Call Frederick Yu, Oxylife International Corp., at 8171140; Joselito Uy, 0926-6298672, e-mail: oxylife_intl_corp@yahoo.com.

Dorn method: Spine therapy

This energy-healing and nerve regimen was founded 30 years ago in Germany by Deter Dora. It may be considered one of the safest and most effective treatments available today.

How it works: The basic principle is no two legs are of equal length. Different leg lengths can be diagnosed in almost every individual which leads to an inclined pelvis and a spine that is out of balance. When the spine reacts, there are misalignments that take place as well as scoliosis and back pain.

The result is a negative influence on the nerve connection from the brain to the rest of the body. Gentle hand manipulation can correct the difference in leg length by ½ inch or 2 cm. Self-help exercises are taught. This works in combination with nerve therapy and the Breuss massage (from Austrian healer Rudolf Breuss). A wholistic approach to spine healing is guaranteed. Free spine check-up is offered. Call Thomas Zudrell, director, Better Living Center, at 8232095/ 0917-8958357. E-mail infor@divetom.com.

Anti-aging skin therapies

Diminishing skin vitality is a common problem of those living in a stressful world.

Skin cells are born and reborn every 28 days, which can be altered by environmental damage (pollution, overexposure to the sun), lifestyle (low-nutrition diets, little or no sleep, smoking/drinking...) and biological aging.

No single treatment can bring back a glowing complexion. It has to be a combination of approaches. While there are many new skin care lines available in the market today, Nu Skin's 180 Anti-Aging Treatment helps restore clear, smooth and young skin in 4-8 weeks. Containing Vitamin C, lactic acid, grapeseed extract, gingko biloba (Plankton), ANA enzymes, cucumber and sunscreens, "180" can reduce fine lines, improve skin elasticity and clarity and prevent pigmentation. Studies have shown that after a week of using the product, one's skin is enhanced. Call Rowena Balatbat at 0917-8351225; Paula Llorando, 0917-8113230.

Darphin Paris has arrived to give your skin its best treatment. Preire Darphin, a renowned French dermatologist and chemist, founded his laboratory in 1958. His interest lay in the healing virtues of plants for the skin. Introducing his 3-dimensional care, he combined phytobiology (oxygenation, respiration) aromatherapy (drainage regeneration, revitalization) and phytotherapy (protection, moisturization, nutrition).

Of interest are various 1-1½ hour facial treatments:

Intra—for sensitive and reactive skin

Biodastase—for acne-prone and oily skin

Haute Couture Lifting and Revitalization Treatment—a two-hour deep massage for skin firming and lifting.

Call Darphin Beauty Institute at Franck Provost Salon at 8998011. Look for Arlynn.

Skin vitamins

According to Dr. Michael Perricone, author of "The Wrinkle Cure," great skin begins in the vegetable and fruit section of the market or grocery.

- Pick the most brightly colored fruits or vegetables you can find. Try one or two new items.
- Go for the freshest fish and poultry available. High-quality protein will not only make your skin glow but also add luster to your hair. Forgo the red meat because it is considered pro-inflammatory food that will only give you health and skin problems.
- Buy fresh spring water or mineral water. You need clean water to hydrate your body.

Vitamin A 5,000 iu or betacarotene, B-complex 50-100 mg; Vitamin C 1,000-2,000 mg; Vitamin E 200-400 iu; minerals—calcium 1,000 mg; magnesium 400 mg; trace minerals chromium 200 mcg; selenium 200 mcg; zinc 15-30, mg/day, acetyl L-carnitine 500 mg, alpha-lipoic acid (which also controls blood sugar) 100 mg, co-enzyme Q-10 30-100 mg, l-glutamine 500 mg, omega 3/6 oils 1,000-2,000 mg, pycnogenol 50-100 mg.

Weekly affirmation: "The sun rises daily with radiance and so do I."

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SWM 651TT

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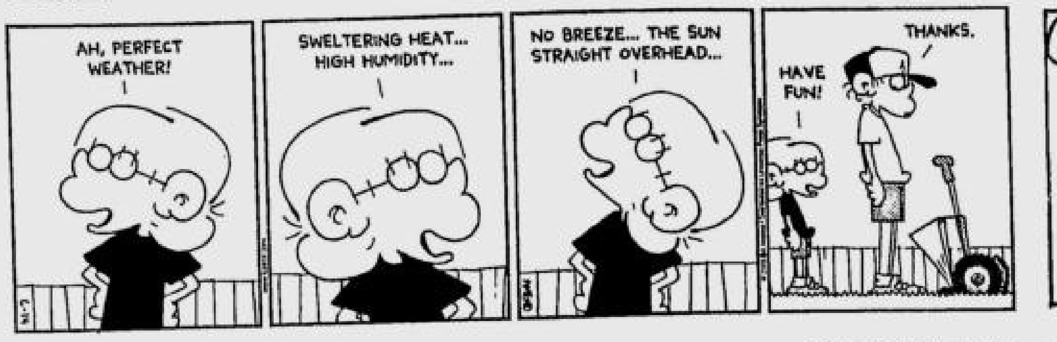
TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2005

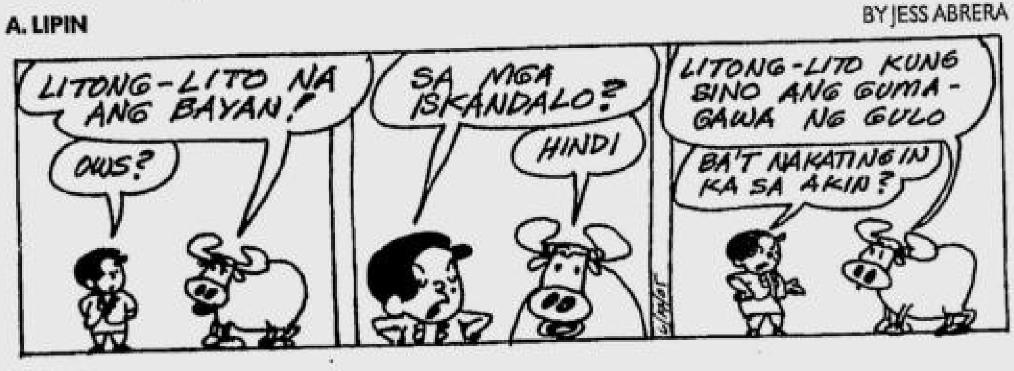
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


AH, PERFECT WEATHER!
SWELTERING HEAT... HIGH HUMIDITY...
NO BREEZE... THE SUN STRAIGHT OVERHEAD...
HAVE FUN!
THANKS.

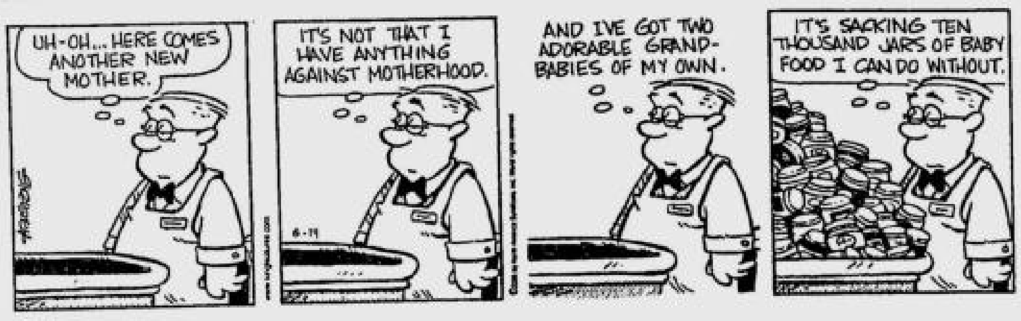
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


LITONG-LITO NA ANG BAYAN!
OWS?
SA MGA ISKANDALO?
HINDI
LITONG-LITO KUNG SINO ANG GUMA-GAWA NG GULO
BA'T NAKATINGIN KA SA AKIN?

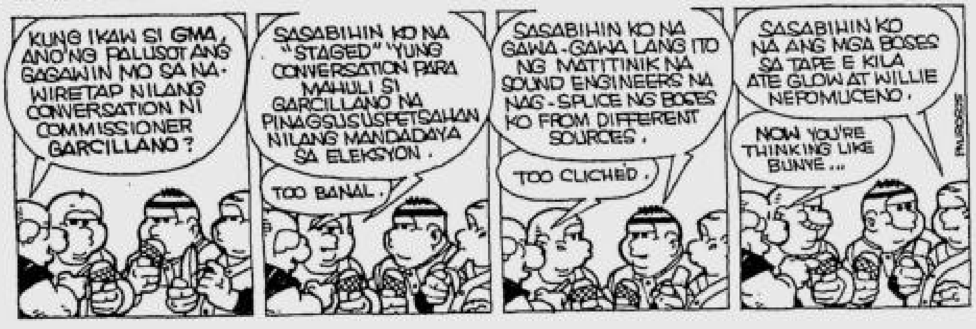
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


UH-OH... HERE COMES ANOTHER NEW MOTHER.
IT'S NOT THAT I HAVE ANYTHING AGAINST MOTHERHOOD.
AND I'VE GOT TWO ADORABLE GRAND-BABIES OF MY OWN.
IT'S SACKING TEN THOUSAND JARS OF BABY FOOD I CAN DO WITHOUT.

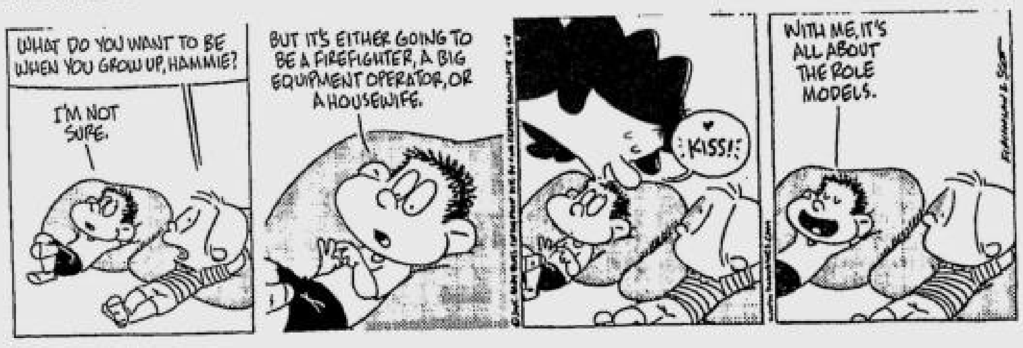
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


KUNG IKAW SI GMA, ANO'NG PALUSOT ANG GAGAWIN MO SA NA-WIRETAP NILANG CONVERSATION NI COMMISSIONER GARCILLANO?
SASABIHIN KO NA "STAGED" 'YUNG CONVERSATION PARA MAHULI SI GARCILLANO NA PINAGSUSUSPETSAHAN NILANG MANDADAYA SA ELEKSYON.
TOO BANAL.
SASABIHIN KO NA GAWA-GAWA LANG ITO NG MATITINIK NA SOUND ENGINEERS NA NAG-SPLICE NG BOSES KO FROM DIFFERENT SOURCES.
TOO CLICHED.
SASABIHIN KO NA ANG MGA BOSES SA TAPE E KILA ATE GLOW AT WILLIE NEPOMUCENO.
NOW YOU'RE THINKING LIKE BUNYE...

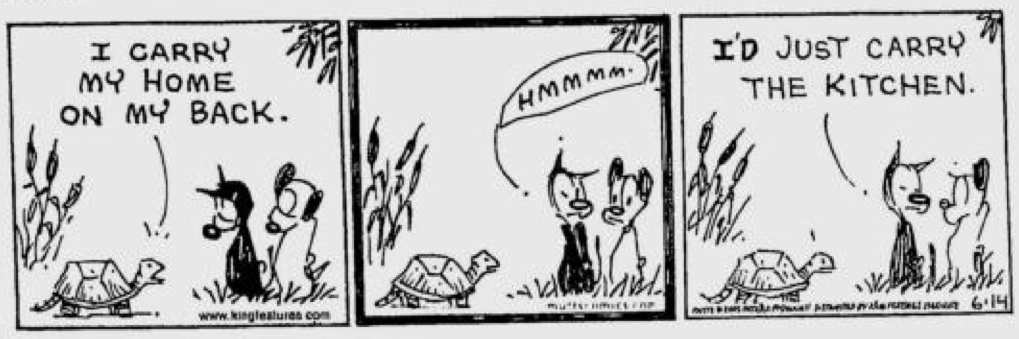
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP, HAMMIE?
I'M NOT SURE.
BUT IT'S EITHER GOING TO BE A FIREFIGHTER, A BIG EQUIPMENT OPERATOR, OR A HOUSEWIFE.
KISS!
WITH ME, IT'S ALL ABOUT THE ROLE MODELS.

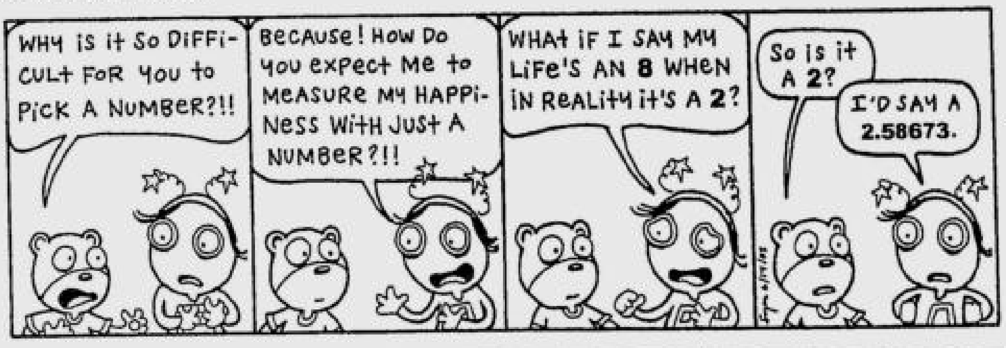
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I CARRY MY HOME ON MY BACK.
HMMMM.
I'D JUST CARRY THE KITCHEN.
www.kingfeatures.com

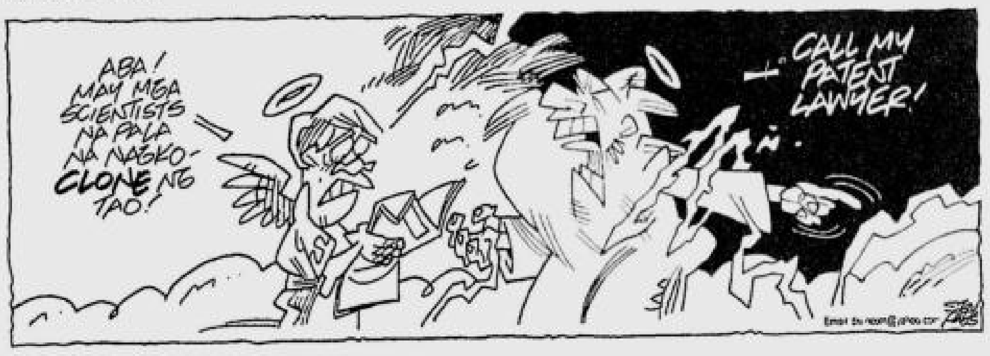
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WHY IS IT SO DIFFI-CULT FOR YOU TO PICK A NUMBER?!!
BECAUSE! HOW DO YOU EXPECT ME TO MEASURE MY HAPPI-NESS WITH JUST A NUMBER?!!
WHAT IF I SAY MY LIFE'S AN 8 WHEN IN REALITY IT'S A 2?
SO IS IT A 2?
I'D SAY A 2.58673.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


ABA! MAY MGA SCIENTISTS NA PALA NA NAGKO-CLONE NG TAO!
CALL MY PATENT LAWYER!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're ambitious and very gutsy. You make quick, intelligent observations about the world around you. Once you believe something, you will fight fervently to put it in action. You're generally dominant in your relationships with others. (You just take charge.) Certain things that you've been involved with for the past nine years will wrap up this year. Birthdate of: Donald Trump, businessman/TV producer; Che Guevara, revolutionary; Yasmine Bleeth, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Pay no attention to feelings of doubt or inadequacy that you have. We all get these. Despite how real they appear, they have no founding in reality.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Your efforts to get things done through groups or to work in co-operation with others might be temporarily stalled. In about five months, everything will be back to normal.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Ego struggles with partners and close friends make you unsure of your long-term future. Stay light on your feet for the next several months.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You are questioning matters connected with foreign countries, long-distance travel, universities and colleges, plus anything having to do with publishing and the media. Don't act if you're not sure what to do.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Support from partners and close friends is uncertain right now. Perhaps it's best to just rely on yourself. Then you know where you stand.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Relations with others are a bit testy now because you feel increasingly independent. You want your own way; you don't want to be told what to do.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You might think of new ways to make improvements or reform where you work. Be open to new technology that could be introduced. Modern changes might make things better.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're rethinking something you thought was settled in your mind. Now you're not sure. It could be related to children or romance. You might not know what to do until the autumn.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Something oddly familiar is happening again at home or within your family. You'll simply have to deal with it until November. Just bide your time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Relations with siblings and relatives are a bit unpredictable now. They might stay this way throughout the summer. Be patient. You'll learn something new from the changes.

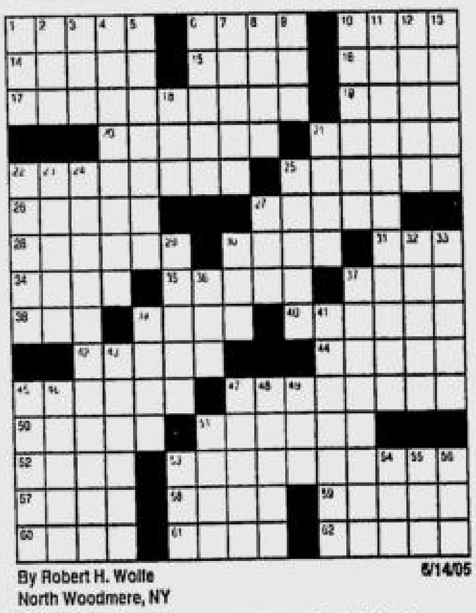
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Some of you have new ways of earning money, but suddenly old problems are cropping up again. Sometimes there is no geographic cure. Maybe it's just your way of looking at things.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You might feel that you've gone too far too fast. You're restless. You'll have to make more of an effort to be diplomatic with others. (But you can do it.)

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Say something
6 Russian ruler
10 Claim to a share
14 Bobby of the Chicago Seven
15 Units of resistance
16 Katz of "Hocus Pocus"
17 Wall compliment?
19 Skiers' ride
20 London's river
21 Hogwash
22 Bad bug
25 Upolu resident
26 Lucy's pal
27 Chucked
28 Wine choice
30 Chef
31 Fed. medical complex
34 Wilhelm or Mulgrew
35 Natl. network
37 Sugar source
38 Draft org.
39 Cameo stone
40 Aural buildup
42 Use a poker
44 Allman brother
45 Aerial attacks
47 Passionate in advocacy
50 Translucent minerals
51 Replace a cork
52 Oodles and oodles
53 TNT compliment?
57 Gin flavoring
58 Scream
59 Admit
60 Hanged patriot
61 Creature comforts
62 Standing tall

DOWN
1 Concorde letters
2 MPH part
3 Mer substance
4 Playing with a full deck
5 Eavesdropping site
6 Crooner Mel
7 Luster
8 Amo, ___, amat...
9 Q-U connection
10 Serve a sentence
11 Long-winded compliment?
12 "Kiss of the Spider Woman" star Sonia
13 Warning signal
18 Comedic jest
21 Boxer's comment
22 Eats like a bird
23 Book of maps
24 Igloo compliment?
25 Push roughly
27 Toddler
29 Military vehicles
30 210, to some
32 Silly
33 Jinxed
36 Side issue
37 More hard-hearted
39 Butterfingers' exclamation
41 Like numbers
43 Precisely
45 Pulverize
46 "My Antonia" author Cather
47 Prosperities, of old
48 Plant fiber
49 Where kine dine
51 Mother of Hera
53 Welsh river
54 Supped
55 Command to attack
56 Blasting letters



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

6/14/05

Monday's Puzzle Solved

A	C	M	E	■	H	I	S	S	■	H	A	B	I	T
N	O	E	L	■	E	R	I	E	■	E	R	O	S	E
T	H	E	S	U	N	A	L	S	O	R	I	S	E	S
I	N	T	E	R	N	■	L	A	V	I	S	H	E	S
■	■	■	■	G	A	S	■	M	A	T	E	■	■	■
R	E	T	I	E	■	T	H	E	T	A	■	F	L	U
E	P	I	C	■	N	E	E	■	I	G	L	O	O	S
C	O	M	E	D	O	W	N	T	O	E	A	R	T	H
A	C	E	T	I	C	■	R	A	N	■	N	A	T	E
P	H	D	■	S	T	R	I	P	■	P	A	Y	E	R
■	■	■	A	G	U	E	■	S	P	A	■	■	■	■
D	I	S	B	U	R	S	E	■	O	R	A	C	L	E
O	N	C	E	I	N	A	B	L	U	E	M	O	O	N
O	R	A	L	S	■	L	A	I	R	■	A	R	L	O
R	E	N	E	E	■	E	N	D	S	■	H	E	A	L

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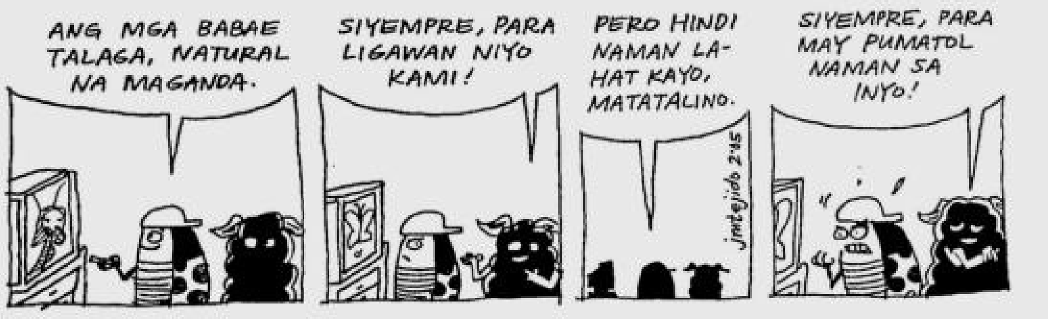
6/14/05

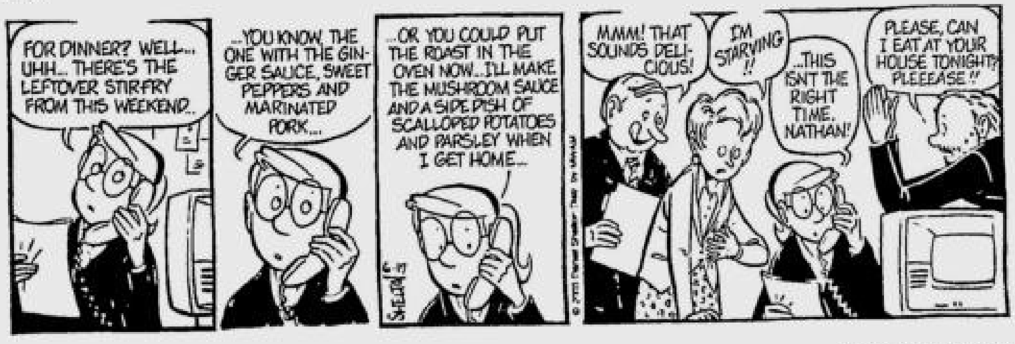
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANG MGA BABAE TALAGA, NATURAL NA MAGANDA.
SIYEMPRE, PARA LIGAWAN NIYO KAMI!
PERO HINDI NAMAN LA-HAT KAYO, MATATALINO.
SIYEMPRE, PARA MAY PUMATOL NAMAN SA INYO!

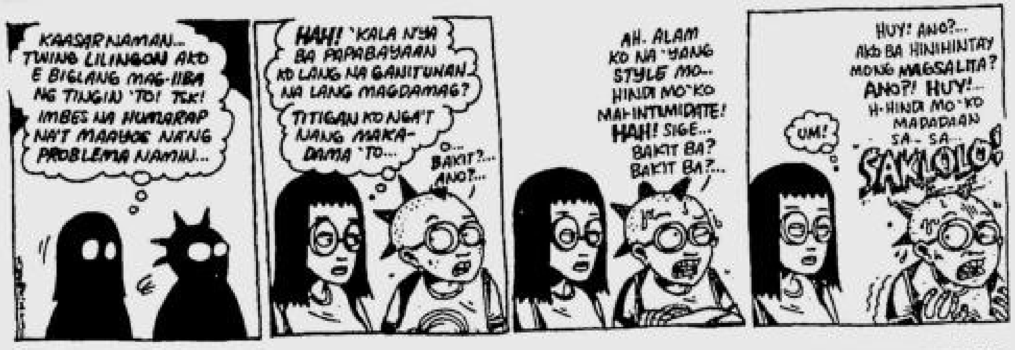
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


FOR DINNER? WELL... UHH... THERE'S THE LEFTOVER STIRFRY FROM THIS WEEKEND...
...YOU KNOW, THE ONE WITH THE GIN-GER SAUCE, SWEET PEPPERS AND MARINATED PORK...
...OR YOU COULD PUT THE ROAST IN THE OVEN NOW... I'LL MAKE THE MUSHROOM SAUCE AND A SIDE DISH OF SCALLOPED POTATOES AND PARSLEY WHEN I GET HOME...
MMM! THAT SOUNDS DELI-CIOUS!
I'M STARVING!!
...THIS ISN'T THE RIGHT TIME, NATHAN!
PLEASE, CAN I EAT AT YOUR HOUSE TONIGHT? PLEEEASE!!

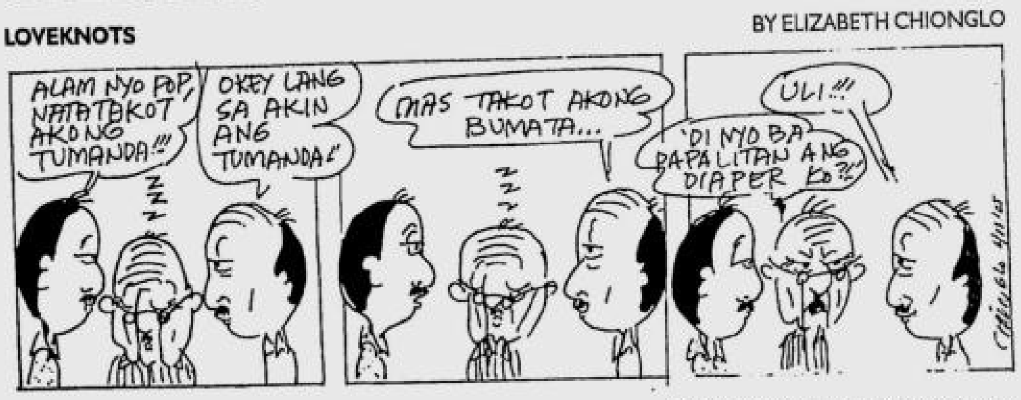
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


KAASAR NAMAN... TWING LILINGON AKO E BIGLANG MAG-IIBA NG TINGIN 'TO! TSK! IMBES NA HUMARAP NA'T MAAYOS NANG PROBLEMA NAMIN...
HAH! 'KALA NYA BA PAPABAYAAN KO LANG NA GANITUNAN NA LANG MAGDAMAG?
TITIGAN KO NGA'T NANG MAKA-DAMA 'TO...
O... BAKIT?... ANO?...
AH. ALAM KO NA 'YANG STYLE MO... HINDI MO 'KO MAI-INTIMIDATE! HAH! SIGE... BAKIT BA? BAKIT BA?...
UM!
HUY! ANO?... AKO BA HINIHINTAY MONG MAGSALITA? ANO?! HUY!... H-HINDI MO 'KO MADADAAN SA... SA... SAKLOLO!

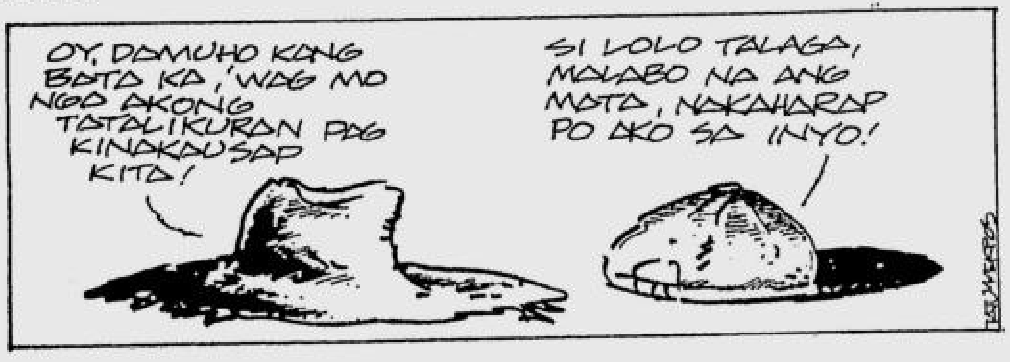
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ALAM NYO POP, NATATAKOT AKONG TUMANDA!!!
OKEY LANG SA AKIN ANG TUMANDA!
MAS TAKOT AKONG BUMATA...
'DI NYO BA PAPALITAN ANG DIAPER KO?!
ULI!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


OY, DAMUHO KONG BATA KA, 'WAG MO NGA AKONG TATALIKURAN PAG KINAKAUSAP KITA!
SI LOLO TALAGA, MALABO NA ANG MATA, NAKAHARAP PO AKO SA INYO!

Fax messages from the dead, Part II

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

"WHEN I went back to work the following day (Monday), early in the morning our secretary handed me a fax paper but I could see terror in her face. I read the fax and recalled the following message:

'Renato, *salamat sa tulong mo sa akin at sa pamilya ko, pakisabi kay* Mommy at Daddy *huwag sila mag-alala.*' Ramon (name written).

"I checked the transmittal report at the top of the fax, but nothing was written/recorded where it came from. It was like it came from nowhere.

"First, I was skeptical and still couldn't believe, but I kept the first fax message.

"The following day, the secretary called me to check the fax, her face looked scared. Then I saw the second fax whose message I can remember. It read:

'*Pakisabi kina kuya, bahala na sila kina* Mommy *at* Daddy, *sana huwag na kayo mag-aaway at magtulong-tulong na lang.*'

'Renato, *salamat uli sa tulong mo*—Ramon.'

"This time it looked real, so I was surprised to realize that even dead people can communicate via fax. Unusual and high-tech that time in 1998, because cell phone text was not yet popular that time, only pagers and analog mobiles were used.

"When I reached home, I decided to give the two fax messages to his parents. They kept the fax messages but still could not believe they came from their dead son.

Secret revealed

"The third and fourth day, there was no fax from him, so I decided to go back and concentrate on my usual office work. On the fifth day, I received another fax with the following message:

'*Naglalakad tuloy-tuloy, sinusundan ko maliwanag na ilaw, parang walang katapusan ang ilaw na nilalakaran ko, meron akong nakikitang ibang tao pero di ko kilala, hinahanap ko asawa ko at anak, di ko pa sila makita, mahabang ilaw parang walang katapusan.*—Ramon'

"When I saw this fax message," continued Renato, "*kinilabutan ako.* I started wondering why he mentioned a wife and child, for the family knew that he was a bachelor. I also gave the fax to his parents and their reaction was still the same. I asked some of his close friends and cousins if Ramon had any secret wife and child before. Then one cousin told me that before he got a job, he had a young girlfriend who became pregnant and died during labor. I didn't know that and, I guess, neither his family, except some close cousins and friends.

"I was in Mindanao the following week to visit another project. It was a Tuesday when my mobile phone rang and my secretary told me, 'Sir, may na receive *na naman kaming* fax *galing sa pinsan mo, lahat kami sa* office *natatakot na.*' So when I went back to Manila around Thursday or Friday , the secretary handed over to me the fax which said:

"*Nakita ko na asawa at anak ko, nakita ko na si lola, sinalubong nila ako, masaya dito, napakasaya.*—Ramon.'

"That was the last fax that I received from Ramon. All the faxes were typed in a very different text format, because that time MS Word was just beginning to be popular and most of the offices were just using WordStar.

"All the faxes that I received from Ramon were handed over to his parents. Because it is in thermal paper, I'm sure the messages are already gone by this time. But I cannot forget them."

What Renato related about his experiences in the afterlife are consistent with stories told by others from all over the world. They go to a place full of light where they see other beings.

What is interesting in this story is that the departed Ramon was apparently earthbound until he found his wife and child. After that, he was not heard from anymore. He has gone up to the higher realms, and is now at peace. He mentioned that his grandmother was also there and they were all very happy together in the spirit world.

Address letters to this column to Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Call 8107245 or 8926806 for information on seminars I conduct. E-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph or visit http://www.jlicauco.shorturl.com. Listen to my dzMM radio program 7-8 p.m. every Sunday

Home fitness equipment for dad

TODAY'S generation of fathers often neglect to take care of their health because of the demands of career and family life. While being physically fit during their younger days, fathers tend to get unfit and unhealthy through the years.

It's not too late though for anyone to get health-conscious and fit. But with exorbitant gym memberships and fees, it is indeed better to find ways of getting a workout in an efficient but affordable manner. One convenient option is working out at home with the help of gym equipment that will provide desired results.

The JKExer line of home equipment products, exclusively distributed by Sports Resources Inc. (SRI), is the perfect "personal" trainer for fathers, which they can use in their home.

One of JKExer's latest products is the JK Talent 7200M treadmill with features like Auto Power Fold/Unfold Switch—a toggle switch which makes workout hassle-free with its quick fold/unfold mechanism; powerful 2HP motor; motor inclination; shock-absorbed running deck—to prevent unnecessary shock injury to knee and ankle joints; plus added amenities which enable the user to monitor distance, calories burned, speed and pulse for a total workout.

A more affordable machine is the JK Wish 4060A treadmill. Its features include a 1.5HP motor; Body Fat display, which identifies the user's body fat percentage by merely keying in one's height, weight, age and sex; basic computer function of time, distance, calories speed and pulse display in 5 LCD; special "air-oil shock" for safety; power-saving mechanism through merely folding up and down.

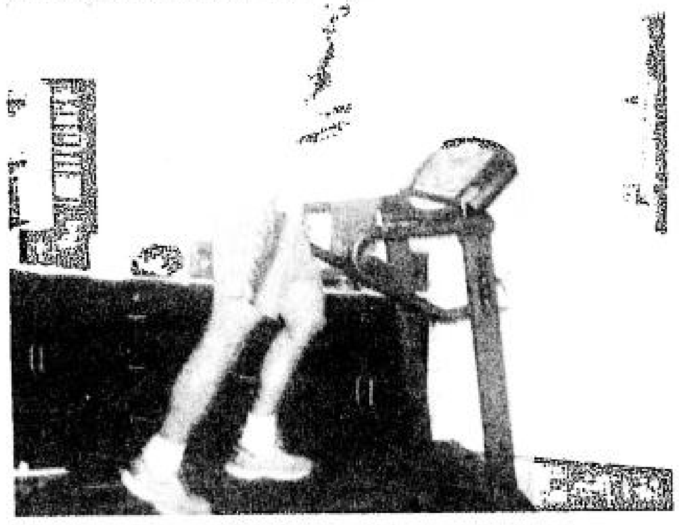
A safety pin is designed with the shock to prevent the frame from folding down. The only way to fold down the machine is to use your foot by pushing the center of the shock and automatically the frame will unfold the frame. There is no need to hold the frame as it will unfold slowly by itself.

According to JKExer product supervisor Marne Escotido, JKExer has a complete line of fitness equipment ranging from Home Gyms, Magnetic Bikes, Elliptical Trainers and Benches.

"Home gym equipment is intended for home use and have more compact designs. Our products are Taiwan-made and all ISO-certified, so we are confident about their quality and efficiency," said Escotido.

She added that JKExer products are easily movable, foldable, and can be transported or stored easily because of built-in wheels. "With the JKExer, you don't have to pay exorbitant membership fees nor deal with traffic and other hassles before going to the gym," she added.

JKExer home equipment is available at selected Toby's branches, Olympic World and Gateway Mall. Call 6719765.



WITH JKEXER, Dad can get fit while at home.

Eye checkup may help improve school grades

EIGHTY percent of the information we acquire in life comes to us visually. This includes knowledge, skills and experiences.

So don't despair if your child always gives you low grades. A poor showing in school doesn't always mean a child is slow or has a mental or psychological problem. Most of the time, it could just be a result of poor vision.

To be sure that your child is not suffering from a learning disability caused by some physical or emotional traumatic experience at school or inside your home, Dr. Pik Sha Chan-Uy, a retina specialist and pediatric ophthalmologist at the Asian Eye Institute (AEI), advises parents to have their children's eye examined first as an initial step.

"From our experience here at AEI, simply prescribing corrective lenses solves the problem of the child's poor performance in school," she says. "It's only natural that when a child has difficulty seeing what he needs to read, say on the blackboard, he or she won't obviously do well in school. It will be close to impossible if the child could ever catch up with the lessons with poor vision," she adds.

According to her, the biggest problem is children have no way of telling if what they are experiencing is normal or not. To a child who was born with a vision problem, a blurred blackboard is normal. So the child does not complain.

"It is really up to the parents to observe their children. Is he squinting or blinking frequently? Is she always very close to the television when she's watching? Does he turn his head in a particular way? These are signs of eye problems that need to be examined by an ophthalmologist," Dr. Chan-Uy reveals.

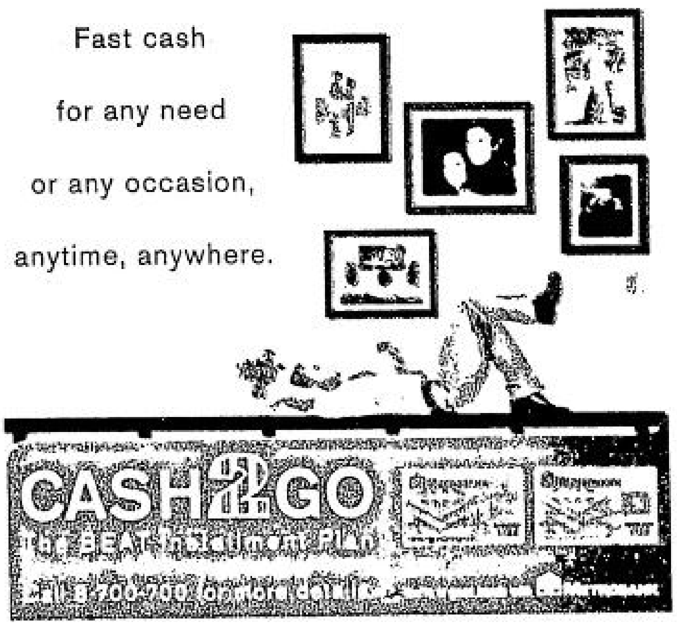
So what are these eye problems that cause our children to perform poorly in school?

"They're mostly refractive error, which can easily be corrected by wearing eye glasses," discloses Dr. Chan-Uy. She adds: "We've also had cases of misalignment of the eye or what we term as strabismus, which can have devastating consequences if left untreated. But what we are most concerned about are premature babies. They are prone to a condition called retinopathy of prematurity that could result in vision loss as they grow older. Treatment of retinopathy of prematurity may be in the form of laser therapy, freezing treatment, or operative surgery depending on the stage of the disease. That is why early detection and prompt intervention is a must in these cases."

Unknown to many, infants' eyes could effectively be examined and treated for eye problems, like retinopathy of prematurity. Dr. Chan-Uy advises that babies born prematurely undergo eye examination as early as possible sometimes even while still in the hospital; or parents can bring their child to an ophthalmologist as early as they possibly can in order to detect and treat the problem. If there are no obvious vision problems, children can have their first eye examination at age 3-3½.

"Parents should not be afraid of taking their kids to the eye doctor for check-ups. We have safe ways of doing it, and it could save their children's future," concludes Dr. Chan-Uy.

Call 8982020; e-mail eyehelp@asianeyeinstitute.com or log on to www.asianeyeinstitute.com



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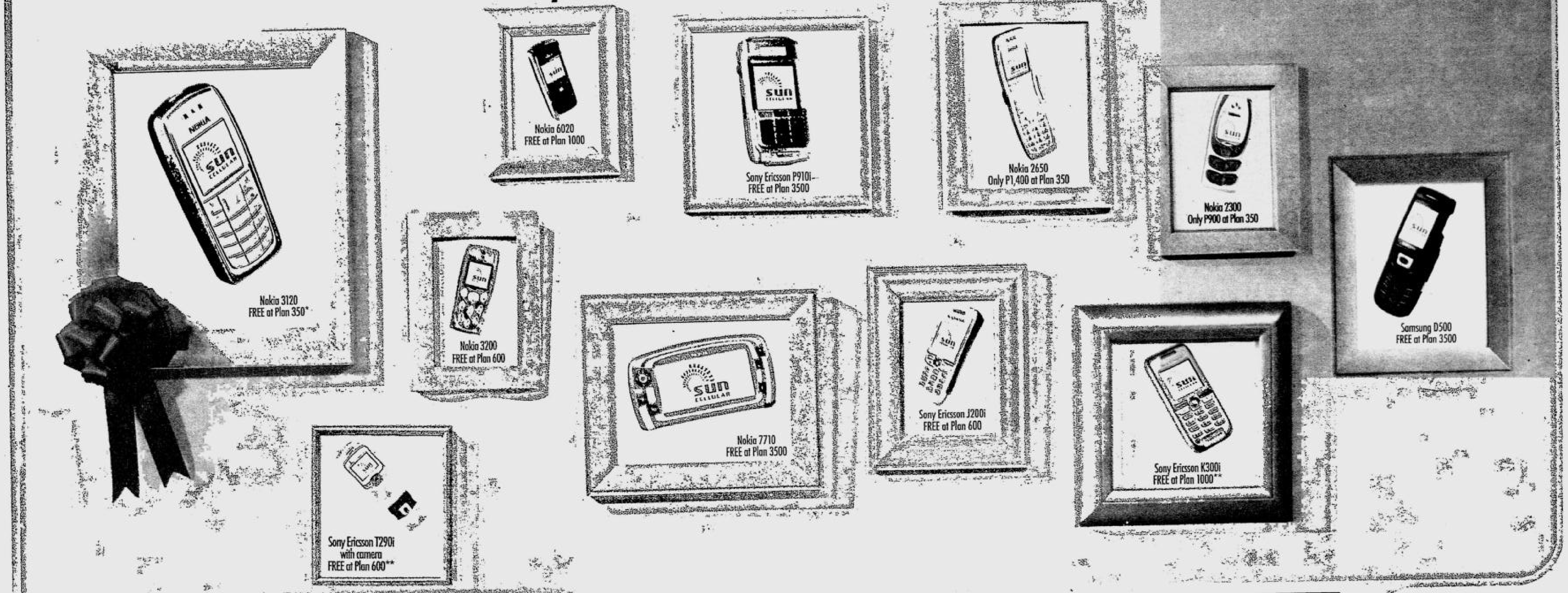
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